

# THE WAR IN OUTLINE 1939-1943



FIGHTING FORCES SERIES

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THE WAR IN OUTLINE  
*1939-1943*





# The War in Outline

1939-1943

*Materials for the Use of  
Army Orientation Course*



PREPARED BY  
THE WAR DEPARTMENT



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## Preface

GENERAL MARSHALL has stated that a knowledge of the causes and the events leading up to the present war and of the principles for which we are fighting "is an indispensable part of military training and merits the thoughtful consideration of every American soldier." The mission assigned to Army Orientation Course by War Department order of February 9, 1942, is to present these subjects to the Army, together with information on current developments in the international situation.

This publication is designed to assist military personnel in discharging that mission. Its facts are presented in outline form to suggest more strongly their integration and their possible organization for presentation to troops in the form of talks, such as figure in Introductory Phase of Army Orientation Course, or in the form of the discussions connected with its Current Phase where Company Officers have functions assigned.

Since individual speakers or discussion leaders should make their own presentations of the topics assigned to them and use their own words in so doing, the facts are here presented in an abbreviated style and no effort has been made to break up the material into units for talks or discussions. However, these materials can be employed in a variety of ways by those seeking to reach the objectives of Army Orientation Course. For example, the section entitled "The Immediate Background of the War" might be used, in part or as a whole, as the basis for an introductory lecture in Introductory Phase. The same use can be made of materials on individual campaigns, e. g. those in Russia, North Africa, or in Pacific Theaters. Furthermore, close acquaintance with the contents of these pages will assist those assigned to conduct Current Phase by providing them with background material and with an understanding of military principles and the general military situation which will render their commentaries on "Newsmag" and news bulletins more intelligent and more informing.

Additions to the story of action, observations thereon, and additional subjects pertinent to Army Orientation Course may be added from time to time in subsequent editions.

Every effort has been made to assure accuracy of statement. If, however, errors are detected, information concerning them should be sent to: *Army Morale Services Division, A.S.F.*

*Orientation Branch, Pentagon Building, Washington 25, D.C.*  
so that they may be promptly corrected.



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## Section A

### *The Immediate Background of the War*

Axis Actions September 1931 to September 1939

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#### I. ACTIONS FOR WHICH GERMANY

WAS RESPONSIBLE

#### II. ACTIONS FOR WHICH ITALY

WAS RESPONSIBLE

#### III. ACTIONS FOR WHICH JAPAN

WAS RESPONSIBLE

These years were technically years of peace in Europe and Asia.

At least there were no declared wars.

Yet military action, or the threat of military action, was ever present.

Some events were dramatic and startling. Many became familiar to us.

But we need to see them in their time sequence because they were actually milestones on the road to the war which became an acknowledged fact in Europe September 3, 1939 and embraced the United States on December 7, 1941.

We can see this movement more clearly if we follow the events for which the members of the present Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis were responsible.

For the sake of clarity it is best to follow the actions of each separately.

But note the points at which Berlin and Rome and Tokyo cooperated in those days, just as they cooperate today.

#### *I: Actions for Which Germany Was Responsible*

These actions were taken at the direction of Adolf Hitler, who became Chancellor of the German State January 30, 1933.

This man had a clear view of his distant objective.

He was determined from start to make Germany the dominant state in the world.

He saw just as clearly the succession of steps he had to take to reach his objective.

He knew enough about his fellow Germans and about Europe and the world to handle many situations successfully.

Before January 30, 1933, Hitler had made himself chief of the National Socialist (Nazi) party. He had stopped at nothing to get that post. The party stopped at nothing in its effort to gain control of Germany.

By constant purposeful agitation he had made that party dominant in the German state.

From 1933 to 1939 he had moved by successive steps to make Nazi Germany the dominant state in Europe.

(There is no point in declaring that he planned every detail in advance. Hitler is no miracle man. It is more accurate to state he took advantage of every opportunity to get ahead.)

### *The Attempt on Austria 1934*

In July 1934, he tried to grab Austria, then an independent state. He failed because Mussolini supported the cause of Austrian independence.

### *German Rearmament 1935*

Hitler went at it again in March 1935, although in another direction.

He announced that Germany was building submarines.

He told the world that Germany had reestablished military conscription and

He transferred the German civil air fleet to military control.

A year earlier he had established the Nazi Motor Corps.

This was the first major step towards a fully motorized and mechanized Army.

Nazi Germany was publicly rearming.

She was openly doing what had been done secretly since 1919, when the German militarists first began to plan for a return to power.

### *Occupation of the Rhineland 1936*

March 7, 1936, was a big day for Hitler.

He denounced the Locarno Treaty which, freely signed by Germany in 1925, had guaranteed the eastern frontiers of France and Belgium.

He also ordered German troops into the zone 25 kilometers east of Rhine which had been demilitarized by Treaty of Versailles (1919).

These troop movements, coupled with the full rearmament begun in 1935, and with the renunciation of the Locarno Treaty constituted a clear threat to France along whose frontiers the growing German army was stationed.

Hitler's actions likewise threatened the general peace.

They were taken without regard for the rights of other nations or for solemn treaties.

No world, present or future, can live in peace unless means are found to enforce those contracts between nations which we call treaties.

The democratic states especially were imperilled, but they failed to act forcefully to prevent the Nazi coup.

They may have been deceived by Hitler's assertion that the Nazis needed a prolonged period of peace to carry through domestic reforms.

More probably, both leaders and peoples were engaged in wishful thinking.

They loved peace so much themselves that they were convinced that not even a Nazi Fuehrer could break it.

They were unwilling, as peace loving peoples often are, to face unpleasant realities which might demand military action.

Of all this Hitler was aware—all these things were part of his estimate of the situation—as he moved toward his great objective, taking advantage of any and every opportunity that offered or that he could himself create.

More actions inevitably followed, since Hitler was dynamic and was obsessed with his fixed ideas that Germany must expand and that she could expand without opposition.

### *The Anti-Comintern Pact 1936-1937*

On October 24, 1936, the formation of the Rome-Berlin Axis was announced.

On November 25, 1936, Germany and Japan signed the Anti-



Comintern Pact to which Italy became a party in November 6, 1937.

Germany and Italy were pledged to consult and collaborate on matters of mutual interest, and all three parties promised to combat the ideas of Soviet Russia.

The opposition of Berlin, of Rome and of Tokyo to the Soviets was stressed by the signers.

Some people in the democracies cheered, although no other democratic powers accepted the invitation to join.

The Bolshevism of the Soviet Union was unpopular, although it was being rapidly modified in the direction of a quasi capitalist regime (e. g. foreign capital was imported and a wage system was inaugurated.)

The democracies failed to see that this apparently defensive agreement against the U. S. S. R. was the basis for the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo Axis, which combination threatened states other than the Soviet Union with offensive action.

### *Intervention in Spain 1936*

Hitler intervened, with Mussolini, in Spain in 1936.

A total of about 45,000 Nazis and 175,000 Fascists served the Spanish Dictator (Franco). The Germans, chiefly technicians, were shuttled in and out of Spain, 5,000 at a time.

Spanish battlefields were used as testing grounds for new German weapons (planes and tanks), and the new tactics of machine warfare.

This action had the further purpose of extending Nazi influence in the Iberian peninsula—an area of critical importance in Europe and in the Mediterranean region.

### *Recognition of Italy's Seizure of Ethiopia 1936*

In keeping with his recent treaty Hitler recognized Mussolini's conquest of Ethiopia.

By so doing he provided more cement to bind the diplomatic associates together.

*N. B.*—The United States never recognized this conquest because it was clearly the result of aggression.

### *The German Four-Year Plan 1936*

Within Germany Hitler inaugurated "The Four Year Plan."

Heavy industry was expanded and converted to the production of munitions for the new mechanized army.

Auto roads were developed to speed the movement of troops and of supplies. They were engineered with the military purpose in mind, and were to prove a major factor in the swift success of German operations in 1939-1940.

### *The Austrian Anschluss 1938*

1938 saw further major actions on part of Hitler.

He moved against Austria.

Where he had failed in 1934, he now succeeded.

In February Hitler put the Austrian premier (Schuschnigg) under pressure, and forced him to admit Nazis into his Austrian Cabinet.

On March 11, 1938, he moved Nazi motorized troops across the Austrian frontier and landed others by air at the Vienna airport.

There was no Italian support for Austria this time because Hitler had so consolidated his power that Mussolini was no longer disposed to oppose it. He confirmed his role as the Axis junior partner.

The Anti-Comintern Pact and the recognition of the Italian Empire of Ethiopia were beginning to do their work.

Moreover, a Fifth Column existed within Austria to aid the invaders.

Anschluss (union of Austria with Germany) became a fact.

On February 20, 1938, Hitler had told his Nazis and the world "Over ten million Germans live in two states adjoining our frontiers. It is in the interest of the German Reich to protect them."

He had brought 7 million Austrians into the Nazi fold.

What of the other 3 million?

### *The Sudeten Crisis—Munich Conference 1938*

The other 3 million Germans the Fuehrer had promised to "protect" lived in the western fringe of Czechoslovakia.

Hitler was well prepared to act for their "liberation," and for the further extension of German territory.

His own people were enthusiastic at the acquisition of Austria without cost.

A Fifth Column under Konrad Henlein had been organized among Sudeten Germans in Czechoslovakia. A useful base for military threat or action had recently been obtained in

Austria (on the Southern frontier of Czechoslovakia). The Anti-Comintern Pact, and Soviet uncertainty about the attitude of the democracies kept the U. S. S. R. aloof. German troops and fortifications were on the western frontier of France.

France, although pledged to support the Czechs, was confused and vacillating.

Her attitude was essentially defensive (Maginot Line), and the situation demanded action beyond French frontiers.

The British government (Chamberlain) was either unwilling or unable to see the growing menace to peace.

Britain's military and naval outlook was, like that of France, essentially defensive. Their military forces were not ready. Chamberlain declared that Britain would not act in a "quarrel in a far away country between people of whom we know nothing."

The Czech was thus isolated.

Nazi Germany, on the other hand, was placed on a war footing.

Hitler acted.

He roused German emotions by picturing the torture of Sudeten Germans by villainous Czechs.

He centered German hopes for revenge in himself by promising to end the sufferings of their blood brothers.

On September 29, 1938 he brought about the Munich Conference.

Hitler (Nazi), Mussolini (Fascist), Daladier (France) and Chamberlain (Britain) met together.

The two latter hoped to secure peace by a bargain giving the Sudetenland to Hitler.

They trusted wishfully in Hitler's assertion (September 26, 1938) that "once the problem of the Sudetenland is solved, Germany has no more territorial problem in Europe. We do not want any more Czechs."

Britain and France allowed Hitler to take over western Czechoslovakia—an area which included fortifications built for defense against Germany.

Hitler's grip on his German people was tremendously improved by this latest low cost success.

His position in Europe was improved by his gain of strategic



territory.

Many in Europe were alarmed by his methods, and by the extent of Nazi Germany's growth.

Americans were even more alarmed than Europeans.

But more, who feared the costs of action to block Hitler's ambitions, found comfort in his latest assertion: "We have but one wish—to make our contribution to the general peace of the world."

Hitler was here using his familiar smoke screen.

Actually he was determined to go forward, taking advantage of any and all opportunities, towards his ultimate objective—dominion over Europe and the World.

### *The Seizure of Czechia 1939*

Opportunities for such a movement were plentiful in 1939.

1. The Munich Settlement's terms were stretched by Hitler to let the Nazis grab more Czech territory.
2. Poland and Hungary were encouraged by Hitler to loot the remaining property of the Czech state.
3. The Czech President (Hacha) was bullied by Hitler (he fainted twice during their interview at Berchtesgaden), and was forced to ask that the Czech provinces be taken under Hitler's "protection." (March 15, 1939.)
4. Nazi troops moved across Czechia's frontiers within two hours after Hacha's surrender.

Before the day ended Hitler had entered Prague (the Czech capital) in triumph.

This was Hitler's last peacetime achievement.

He had made great gains—at no cost except an increase of alarm in other states.

1. The industrial establishments of Czechoslovakia (e. g. the Skoda munitions works which specialized in heavy tanks) were added to the resources of the Nazis. Tanks of Czech design were soon to appear in Poland and France with German crews. Slovakia was to swing over to the German side.
2. The Czech population was doomed to work as slaves for Hitler's "master race."
3. A base for further action by the Nazis was also provided. (Czechoslovakialay along Poland's southern frontier.)

### *Summary*

A quick summary shows the extent of Hitler's major achievements January 1933-September 1939.

1935 He rearmed Germany.

1936 He remilitarized Rhineland.

Made treaties with Italy and with Japan.

Intervened in Spain.

Inaugurated the Four-Year Plan.

1938 He seized Austria.

Seized Sudetenland as result of Munich.

1939 He made Czechoslovakia a Nazi "protectorate."

Nazi rule was steadily extended in these years at the cost of the independent and freedom loving people of Austria and Czechoslovakia.

The rule of the Gestapo and of Gauleiters (Nazi political chiefs) in the seized territories showed Europe and World the fearful consequences of Nazi victory.

## *II: Actions for Which Italy Was Responsible*

Italy's actions were determined by Benito Mussolini.

He became Italy's Dictator on October 30, 1922.

He had seized power with the aid of his "Black Shirts," and declared that he "stood triumphant over the dead body of Liberty."

In the years which followed he lived up to this assertion.

He ended the democratic liberties of Italians.

Eventually he trampled on other people's liberties too.

### *Domestic Developments*

For 10 years after 1922 Mussolini used his powers as Duce for domestic purposes.

1. To perfect his hold on Italy, he eliminated his opponents ruthlessly.

Gangster methods "liquidated" the leaders of the opposition. Both concentration camps and outright murder were vigorously employed.

2. To strengthen Italy's resources Mussolini brought about a great increase in Italy's wheat production, and brought industry and labor under government control.



### *Imperial Ambitions*

But Mussolini had to give Italians who had lost their liberties something else to think about.

He talked loudly of the size and importance of the ancient Roman empire.

He suggested to Italians that under Il Duce an Empire of similar extent and importance would again be ruled from Rome.

Italy already had the small beginnings of such an Empire.

1. Fiume (at head of Adriatic).

2. Aegean Islands. (Dodecanese and Rhodes.)

Both were useful advance bases for a move into the Middle East.

3. African Colonies.

Libya (North Africa). Eritrea and Somaliland (north east Africa).

Mussolini improved his hold on all these areas, and in some cases (Fiume, Dodecanese, Libya) enlarged their territories during the years 1922-1935.

### *The Conquest of Ethiopia 1935-1936*

In 1935 Mussolini created an opportunity further to enlarge his imperial properties.

On October 3, 1935 Il Duce's troops invaded Ethiopia (on frontiers of Eritrea and Somaliland) on the pretext of border outrages by Ethiopians.

This constituted a clear cut act of aggression in breach of the arbitration treaty of 1928 between Ethiopia and Italy.

The European democracies tried to hold Mussolini back.

But, as in dealing with Hitler, they feared war, and failed to back their words with sufficient force to carry their point.

Their unpreparedness was a chief deterrent.

Addis Ababa (capital of Ethiopia) was occupied by Il Duce's legions on May 5, 1936.

Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, gained the additional title of "Emperor of Ethiopia."

But the real ruler of Italy and of Ethiopia alike was Il Duce. It was the same Mussolini who

Established the Rome-Berlin Axis in this very year of 1936.

Got recognition of his conquest of Ethiopia from Hitler, but not from the United States.

Gave aid, with Hitler, to Spanish Fascists from July 1936 onward until the end of the Spanish War.

### ***The Conquest of Albania 1939***

In 1939 Il Duce created a second opportunity for imperial expansion.

In Italian hands Albania would guarantee Fascist control of the Adriatic.

Italy had earlier got control of the finances and the army of Albania.

Now, in the spring of 1939, the Italian dictator declared that the Albanians were guilty of bad faith and of outrages against Italians.

He added that his "patience was exhausted."

He must, therefore, act in defense of his honor and of his injured people.

Good Friday (April 7) was chosen as the day for action.

The Italians invaded suddenly from the sea and from the air. The Albanians lacked military defenses.

Albania was added to the growing Empire of Mussolini.

In spite of his exploits in Ethiopia and in Albania, Mussolini's ambitions and dreams were far from satisfied when war broke out in Europe September 1, 1939.

### ***III. Actions for Which Japan Was Responsible***

Hitler, with the consent of the German people, had determined the moves of the Nazis towards their objectives.

Mussolini had begun to build an Italian Empire on the dead bodies of Italian, Ethiopian, and Albanian liberties.

Japan's actions, however, were the work of a military clique rather than of any individual.

Hard boiled generals and admirals had contrived to destroy such power as popular government possessed in Japan.

They seized power and exercised it in name of the "heaven-born" Emperor.

They dishonored their own treaty obligations.

(Treaties are important international documents which must be respected by all their signers if there is to be peace and security in world of nations.)

### *Japan's Treaty Obligations*

Japan had promised to observe three major treaties.

#### 1. *The Nine Power Pact.*

Produced by the Washington Conference of 1921, it guaranteed China's independence and integrity.

#### 2. *The Four Power Pact* (Japan, France, Britain, U. S.).

The signers of this further product of the Washington Conference of 1921 promised to respect one another's properties in the Pacific area.

#### 3. *The Pact of Paris.*

This instrument, developed in 1928 on the initiative of Secretary of State Kellogg and Briand, French Foreign Minister, was designed to outlaw war as an instrument of national policy.

We, in the United States, liked these treaties because we felt that they guaranteed peace. Also, they encouraged disarmament.

Watch and see what the Japanese did to these three treaties as they moved towards their chosen objectives.

### *Japanese Ambitions*

The Japanese objectives, like those of Germany and Italy, were imperial in extent.

In 1931 they were thinking in terms of Japanese supremacy in the Western Pacific.

They already possessed bases for the extension of Japanese power.

#### 1. The Islands of Japan (home base).

#### 2. Properties on Asiatic mainland.

Korea, definitely acquired in 1910.

The peninsula of Liao-Tung (Port Arthur), won in 1905, as result of the Russo-Japanese War.

Economic rights (railways and mines) in the Chinese province of Manchuria.

#### 3. Island possessions, especially—

Formosa and the Pescadores, taken from China in 1895.

Pacific Islands (e. g. Marianas and Carolines) acquired as mandates in 1919.

From the time of their acquisition all these outlying territories were developed as bases for offensive military operations.



In 1931 such characteristic operations on the part of Japan were continued with clearer purpose and with increased emphasis.

### *The Mukden Incident 1931*

September 18, 1931, was a big day in World History.

The date is that of a little "incident" near Mukden in Chinese Manchuria.

The Japanese *insisted*, but never *proved*, that Chinese guerillas blew up a section of the Japanese owned railway there.

The action was said to have taken place about 10:00 P. M., but the train due at Mukden at 10:30 P. M. arrived on time over the damaged (?) rails.

The Japanese made this "incident" the pretext for their invasion of Manchuria by an army previously massed in Korea.

The Chinese province was overrun, and was speedily transformed into a puppet state which Japanese rechristened Manchukuo.

This action violated the Nine Power Pact of 1921, the Pact of Paris of 1928, and the Covenant of the League of Nations, of which body Japan was still a member.

The League tried to intervene and sent the Lytton Commission to Manchuria to investigate and report. The Commission reproved Japan, but did not condemn her outright.

United States Secretary of State Stimson (Secretary of War 1940- ) tried to hold the Japanese back.

But the Japanese defied Stimson and left the League on May 27, 1933.

(Hitler left the League in October 1933, and Mussolini in December 1937. Neither was willing to submit his actions to the judgment of other nations.)

### *Sino-Japanese Hostilities 1931-1939*

War, undeclared, but none the less war, was waged on China by Japan in the years following 1931.

1. Japan extended her control on the Asiatic mainland 1931-1936 by seizing provinces in North China, e. g. Jehol (pronounced Ru-ho).

## 2. Further advances were made by the Japanese in 1937.

In spite of Premier Konoye's declaration that "We have no territorial designs and no wish to make an enemy of the Chinese people,"

The area around the old Chinese capital of Peiping was seized.

Shanghai was bombed for the second time (first in 1932), and permanently occupied.

Nanking was taken and sacked.

The U. S. S. *Panay* was bombed from the air and sunk in the course of these operations. The gunboat was clearly marked as American, but was repeatedly bombed.

In the case of the *Panay* Japanese said "it was entirely unintentional."

In the case of the killings and rapings in Chinese cities they said "it was not war, it was merely an incident."

All these actions by the Japanese were very much "according to plan."

Korea served as their base for action in Manchuria.

Manchukuo served them as a base for their assault on the Northern provinces of China.

Shanghai served as a base for their later "coast creeping policy" (seizure of other ports, e. g. Foochow and Amoy).

### *Japanese Plans for the Future*

Japanese ambitions were no more satisfied at the beginning of 1939 than were those of Hitler and of Mussolini.

Hitler thought in terms of world dominion.

Mussolini dreamed of ruling over a revived Roman Empire.

The Japanese gangsters thought in terms of a Japan which would possess or control all of East Asia. This would include: Mainland areas.

China, Indochina, Malaya, and, possibly India.

Islands.

Netherlands East Indies, Philippines, and possibly, the island continent of Australia.

So long as this trio, Hitler, Mussolini, and Japan, thought of the future in such terms further actions on their part, designed to bring them nearer to the objectives, were inevitable.

## Section B

### *German Offensives in Western Europe, 1939-1940*

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#### *The Situation in September 1939*

Germany, under Hitler's direction, had moved toward European dominion in the years 1933-1939.

She had publicly rearmed in 1935 and geared industry to the war machine by the Four-Year Plan of 1936.

She had further improved her military position by remilitarizing the Rhineland (1936), by her seizure of Austria (1938) and Czechoslovakia (1938-1939).

These bases for potential military action, the new army (based on universal military service), the new matériel (Luftwaffe and motorized troops) and the enlarged sources of military supplies all figured in the plans of the German General Staff.

Its plans and, at critical points, its personnel, assured continued emphasis on military principles developed without a break from the pre-1914 period, and placed a modern machine-age army, up to date in its organization and training, at Hitler's disposal.

In the years 1933-1939 Hitler had more than once threatened war in order to achieve his ends, but the irresolute attitude of the democracies had allowed him to carry out his plans without recourse to war.

After completing the seizure of Czech territory in March 1939, Hitler continued Germany's movement toward her declared objectives, taking advantage of every opportunity, and using any available means.

War was not excluded from those means, even if Germany had formally renounced war as an instrument of national policy when she signed the Pact of Paris (Kellogg-Briand Pact) in



1927.

In fact, Nazi Germany had reversed Clausewitz' dictum that "war was the continuation of policy by other (than peaceful) means."

This had implied the subordination of war to policy, and possibly to morals.

In the Third German Reich no regard was paid to morals or ethics, and policy, together with its handmaiden diplomacy, was made to serve a military end.

### *Hitler Threatens Poland*

Hardly had the last provinces of Czechoslovakia been brought under Germany's "protection" when Hitler laid down a barrage on Poland of the usual propaganda type.

For home and for foreign consumption he insisted that Germans, members of the "master race," were being maltreated by the Poles who, being non-German, were inferior cattle.

To impress both Germans and non-Germans he also insisted that Germany was injured by the continued existence of the "Polish Corridor" which lay between West and East Prussia.

This territory was part of the Poland which had been reconstituted by the Treaty of Versailles (1919) on a better base than the paper kingdom of Poland created by Germany and Austria in 1916 in the hope of recruiting a Polish army from a grateful Polish people to fight on the side of the Central Powers.

The Corridor, which had been seized by Prussia in 1772, was returned to Poland in 1919 to give the new state access to the sea.

Within it lay Danzig, a port with a German population, and subject to the control of the League of Nations, and Gdynia, an alternative port developed by the Poles since 1919.

Hitler could not stop until he had fulfilled all the promises he had made to his fellow Germans, and Poland's position was weak.

Moreover, a sure means for him to retain his popularity was to feed Germans on more low-cost successes.

A 10-year Non-Aggression Pact had been signed by Germany and Poland in January 1934, and had been confirmed

by diplomatic conversations as recently as January 1939. As was usual in the case of Axis powers this treaty was no barrier to threats or to acts of aggression.

Hitler did more than lay down a propaganda barrage: he acted. Hitler denounced the Anglo-German naval treaty of 1935 which limited German naval armament.

He also denounced the German Non-Aggression Pact with Poland (1934).

(In each case a bi-lateral treaty-contract was voided by unilateral action. Chamberlain's remark was apropos: "We cannot forget that though it takes two to make a peace, one can make a war.")

He asked for Danzig and much of the Corridor from Poland, and repeatedly increased the extent of his demands while insisting that "Germany does not dream of attacking other nations."

To further strengthen his position he made a definite military alliance with Italy on May 7, 1939.

### *The Democracies Abandon Appeasement*

The reactions of the democracies to German actions differed radically from those of the preceding years.

The British people knew they were unprepared for war, but demanded that the Chamberlain government drop appeasement in favor of a more resolute policy.

On March 31, 1939, the British Prime Minister announced that Britain and France would aid Poland if her independence were threatened.

Britain and France had affirmed the solidarity of their interests, and pledged their joint resources for their defense, in the preceding February, and on April 6, 1939, Poland formally accepted their promise of aid in case of aggression.

On April 27, 1939, the British Parliament, for the first time in Britain's history, established peacetime conscription.

From May to August Germany was repeatedly told that if she sought to settle the Danzig question alone Britain and France would act in support of Poland.

The King of the Belgians and the Pope urged the use of peaceful measures to effect a reasonable accommodation.

President Roosevelt had declared on January 4, 1939, that "it



has become increasingly clear that peace is not assured," had urged that attention be given by the United States to the provision of "adequate defense," and again stated that "this generation of Americans has a rendezvous with destiny."

Now, as the Polish crisis developed, the President wrote Hitler and Mussolini on April 14, 1939, asking assurance that their armed forces would not attack or invade the territories of 30 named states.

Hitler and Mussolini answered the appeal with mockery, threats and the assertion that Axis policy was "inspired by the criterions of peace and collaboration." (April 28 and 30, 1939.)

Again on August 23-24, 1939, President Roosevelt sought to provide for a peaceful settlement of their dispute by appeals to the King of Italy, Hitler and President Mosciki of Poland.

On August 25, 1939, the President again wrote Hitler to the same effect, but in vain.

### *The Soviet-German Treaty*

There was need for all these efforts to preserve peace, notably after August 21, 1939.

On that day it was disclosed that von Ribbentrop (German Foreign Minister) and Molotov (Soviet Foreign Minister) had not merely met and shaken hands in public, but had made a Non-Aggression Treaty binding for 10 years (signed August 23, 1939).

Hitler's denunciation of Soviet communism had been a major device in his rise to power since 1923.

Britain and France had been actively seeking an alliance with the Soviet Union although they had not cooperated with the U. S. S. R. in the Czechoslovak crisis.

The world, deceived by these actions, had forgotten the working agreement maintained between Germany and the U. S. S. R. since their Treaty of Rapallo in 1922, and registered astonishment at the Soviet-German accord.

The Soviet-German agreement of earlier years was now given a form which removed the danger that Germany would in 1939 be forced to fight a war on two major fronts simultaneously, as in 1914-1917.

On August 25, 1939, Britain and Poland signed a defensive military alliance, and on September 4, 1939, France and Poland became military allies.

### *The Battle of Poland*

Within a week Hitler delivered an ultimatum to Poland in a fashion that prevented an answer being given within the time limit allowed (August 29-30, 1939).

On September 1, 1939, Germany invaded Poland without a declaration of war, just as Japan had invaded Manchuria in 1931, and as Italy had attacked Ethiopia in 1935, and Albania in 1939.

On September 3, 1939, Britain and France declared that a state of war existed between themselves and Germany. (The form of their declaration resembled that which the United States was to use in December 1941.)

Italy took a curious position which Mussolini described as that of Germany's "non-belligerent ally."

She was not at war, but as Germany's working partner she was in a position to favor Germany, which she did by forcing Britain and France to maintain large forces in the Mediterranean area to deal with a potentially belligerent Italy.

Out of her own resources or through her "neutral" ports Italy furnished Germany with supplies of native and foreign origin.

Many in the democracies regarded this situation as proof that the Axis was broken, whereas in reality Italy was playing Germany's game.

Poland felt the full weight of Germany's long planned blow.

The French army was stalemated by the existence of the German Westwall, recently rushed to completion.

No fleet could get into the Baltic to aid Poland from the sea. Britain's navy was instantly placed on a war footing and blockaded German ports, but it took time to organize her army and move it to its assigned post in northern France. Neither the French nor the British had a sufficient air force to assist their ally.

The Polish army possessed a fighting spirit, but lacked modern motorized equipment.

It was good, but not good enough to deal with the German invasion.

The German army possessed great advantages.

1. Numbers.

There were about 70 divisions, many of them armored, on the long frontier of Poland from the Baltic to the Rumanian border.

2. Equipment.

Mechanized equipment, developed on the proving grounds of the Spanish War, was available, but horse transport and artillery had not been neglected, and the Luftwaffe was present in variety and strength.

3. Position.

East Prussia and Pomerania, on Poland's northern flank, served as bases for the separated armies of von Bock's Northern Army Group.

Silesia and recently acquired Slovakia served the Southern Army Group of von Rundstedt in like fashion.

From such positions von Bock was to occupy the Corridor and drive on Warsaw and its rear from the north, while von Rundstedt's four armies smashed at the Polish capital and its rear from the south.

4. Military Concepts.

German military leaders had carried forward the major lessons of World War I in developing their strategy and tactics.

Boldness of thought and action, a positive belief that, despite the general stalemate which prevailed in World War I, the offensive was the stronger form of war, and the consummation of the marriage of the high-velocity weapons of ground and air were the principles upon which the German High Command acted and with which it had indoctrinated the officers of the German Wehrmacht.

The Luftwaffe opened the German dawn attack by bombarding Polish towns in a fashion which caused President Roosevelt to ask all combatants to refrain from the ruthless bombing of civilians in unfortified centers of population (September 1, 1939).

By other assaults they struck the Polish army blind by destroy-



ing its slender air forces.

By still others they blasted communications and hampered Polish mobilization.

The Polish Staff had elected to defend the line of Poland's frontier for political reasons, although better terrain for defense lay within it to the east in the area of the Lublin plateau.

German armies pinned the Polish forces to the ground they occupied, separated units by drives of panzer (armored) divisions, and then encircled and annihilated or captured them.

Actions of this sort, in which the coordination of all arms was especially evident, were enacted and reenacted, at times on a small scale, at others on a grand scale, as the campaign progressed.

The Corridor was occupied and the Polish port of Gdynia besieged and reduced after a heroic resistance.

Poland's Posen armies were trapped and destroyed in the valley of the Bzura, about 40 miles west of Warsaw, and the others suffered a like fate south and southeast of the capital.

Warsaw itself was encircled and bombarded from the air as well as from the ground.

Following their established policy of employing terror as a military weapon, the Germans deliberately concentrated the fire of planes and of artillery on the city's residential districts.

This was the first of a series of actions based upon the same military principle (Rotterdam 1940 and Belgrade 1941), but at the time the world failed to observe that ruthless action against civilians in a city already within German grasp was a definite feature of German military strategy.

As the campaign approached its climax the Red Army advanced across Poland's eastern frontier, and occupied territory the greater part of which Poland had seized from the U. S. S. R. in 1919-1920. Its advance began on September 17, 1939.

On September 27, 1939, Warsaw surrendered and although some of the Polish forces east of the Vistula held out until October 5, 1939, the campaign was over.

In 4 weeks from the opening assault Poland ceased to exist. Germany acquired resources of labor and of materials.

A proud people lost their freedom and were doomed to slavery, or worse, under the victors.

### *Germany Attacks Denmark and Norway*

Victory in Poland and her arrangement with the U. S. S. R. allowed Germany to concentrate her attention elsewhere without any great concern for the situation on her eastern frontier.

Many expected that the western front would immediately become the theater of active operations.

There operations had been largely confined to patrol activities. People who did not know the dangers and costs of such actions described the situation as "a phoney war," or "Sitzkrieg." Lack of offensive action in the west led many in the democracies to believe that the war was permanently stalemated. That front did not become active at once, nor did any large scale action develop elsewhere until the first Spring of the war.

Then, on April 9, 1940 the German fleet, the German army and the German Luftwaffe assaulted two genuinely neutral and democratic Scandinavian states.

As usual Germany's Fuehrer offered an excuse.

He referred to Britain's announcement on April 8, 1940, that she had mined Norwegian territorial waters (three miles out from shore) to prevent German naval and merchant craft from using it as a "covered way" to their home bases, via which the valuable iron ore obtained from Sweden could be shipped through Narvik to Germany.

Actually Hitler was set for action before he learned of the new mine fields. The plan had been set months earlier and troops were already concentrated along the Danish borders. Troops which landed in the north of Norway on April 9, 1940, had to leave German ports nearly a week before the British announcement.

It is another plain fact that Germany had bored into Norway, long before the day of the attack, by developing a Fifth Column there.

(NOTE: This phrase comes from a statement by Franco's General Mola in 1936. He stated that four Fascist columns were advancing against Madrid, which would receive aid from a Fifth Column of sympathizers within the Loyalist capital.)

Painstaking work had built up the Nazi Fifth Column in

Norway out of Norwegian malcontents and German residents.

Now it was provided with detailed directions, among other things:

To get conflicting orders to Norwegian defense forces and so to create confusion.

To deliver apparently genuine orders to forts and ships directing their surrender.

To seize communication centers, i. e. telephone exchanges, and so paralyze Norwegian mobilization.

However active the Fifth Column, the swift German success was primarily due to their employment of high velocity tactics.

On April 9, 1940, simultaneous landings were effected at many places (Copenhagen in Denmark; Oslo, Bergen, Stavanger, Kristiansand, Trondheim, and Narvik in Norway).

At all Norwegian points of landing either air-borne troops or parachutists figured conspicuously and took possession of all military and commercial airfields in the country.

The use of these fields was, accordingly, denied to Norway and her allies throughout the campaign, and only a few fighter planes could be flown by them from improvised fields.

On the other hand, the airfields were at once available for German use in securing and maintaining air superiority and in strengthening German forces in Norway.

Reinforcements, in many cases, arrived in a stream of transport planes, especially at Oslo where troops were steadily flown in from the Danish airfield at Aalborg, itself one of the German's first prizes.

Since the points attacked in Norway were the termini of the lines of rail and road communications, their instant occupation was a great advantage to the Germans and an equally great disadvantage to the defenders.

Speed marked German actions throughout the brief campaign. Denmark was almost instantly overrun.

In Norway the Kingdom's tiny peacetime army was given no chance to effect a hurried mobilization.

German motorized troops surmounted armed resistance and improvised road blocks, fanned out from their initial landing places and joined hands.



The British navy inflicted heavy losses on German troop convoys in the Skagerrack, but land based planes prevented its continued use of those narrow waters.

French and British expeditionary forces were landed to the north and to the south of Trondheim (at Namsos and Andalsnes) on April 14-17, 1940, at both of which places the lack of port facilities and the presence of the Luftwaffe made the landing of heavy equipment and reinforcements almost impossible.

At Narvik, an ore port in the extreme North, British, Poles, and French forced a landing on April 13, 1940, in the face of stiff German opposition.

But the Allies' effort to take Trondheim was turned back by German speed and German air power. Namsos and Andalsnes were evacuated on May 1-2, 1940, while the troops landed at Narvik were withdrawn by June 9, 1940.

The Germans acquired the following advantages at very low cost:

1. A route whereby Swedish iron ore, carried to Narvik by rail, might follow the sea route to German ports.
2. Naval bases whose possession by the enemy made the maintenance of the Allied blockade of Germany more difficult.
3. Air bases less than 300 miles from the great British naval base and within 500 miles of industrial areas in Scotland. These bases were beyond British fighter range, although well within the flying range of bombers.

The military loss to the Allies was grave, as was their loss of prestige.

But the greatest loss was suffered by Norway whose decent democratic people lost their freedom.

### *Battles in the West, 1940*

Before the Allies withdrew from Narvik the long expected German attack was delivered on the Western Front.

At dawn on May 10, 1940, German armies attacked along the frontiers of the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, and France.

Along the Maginot Line it was merely a containing action; elsewhere the Wehrmacht advanced.

The situation of those attacked was weak and confused.

1. The Principality of Luxembourg was defenseless.

2. The Dutch had been strictly neutral and counted on inundations, to be effected after the commencement of hostilities, as a major defense factor.
  3. The Belgians had, since 1936, been following a policy "strictly and exclusively Belgian," hence neutral and isolated. They had been reassured by the German promise in 1937 to respect their frontiers, while Belgian military leaders considered that their defense lines along the Meuse River and the Albert Canal were strong.
  4. France, with whose armies the British Expeditionary Force had been associated since the outbreak of war, had also built her military strategy about defense positions:  
The Maginot Line extending from the Swiss frontier to the region of Montmedy in the north.  
Natural obstacles—the Rhine and Meuse Rivers, and the forest of the Ardennes.  
The extension of the Maginot Line, in the shape of hurriedly constructed field works, to the west of the Belgian border, from Montmedy to the sea.
- It is noteworthy that the military strategy of the Low Countries and of France and Britain was defensive, which fact partly accounts for the prevalence of a purely defensive attitude on the part of their civilian populations and on the part of their armies as well.
- Moreover their several defense plans and their individual defense lines were generally uncoordinated.
- It was under such circumstances that the Germans again staged a Blitzkrieg.

### *The Battle of the Low Countries*

The Netherlands resisted for only 5 days.

They were long and terrible days for Dutch soldiers and civilians whose sea frontier was at no point more than 160 miles from the German border.

1. The Dutch air force was smothered as the Germans established the air supremacy that was decisive in the campaign.
2. Complete air superiority allowed the Germans to use several thousand parachute troops to seize Dutch airfields and to destroy the public utilities of cities. It also permitted them to make crash landings of air-borne troops on sandy beaches.
3. Some barges proceeded down the Rhine into Dutch territory;



others, starting from German ports, landed on the Dutch coast.

4. Road blocks, bunkers, and water defenses failed to stop the onrush of German motorized divisions.
5. The German advance moved at high speed, left the Dutch little time to organize their defense, and prevented the destruction of vital bridges such as the Moerdijk Bridge over the Meuse which the Nazis used to speed their attack on Rotterdam from the south.

On May 14, 1940, the Dutch capitulated.

Pursuing their set policy of *schrecklichkeit* (frightfulness), the German Luftwaffe systematically destroyed the heart of Rotterdam in an intense bombardment of one and a half hours on that same day, and Robert Ley (leader of the Nazi Labor Front) seized this very moment to tell the world that it was Hitler's "irrevocable mission" to make the world happy, just as he had brought happiness to Germany.

The attack on Belgium prospered exceedingly.

The Belgian Meuse and the Albert Canal were both crossed on the first morning of assault.

The Belgians, with British and French who had rushed to give them aid, were unable to make a decisive stand as they retreated west.

Their retreat, and the forward movement of reinforcements and supplies, was hampered by the deliberate bombing of towns which caused their populations to stream out on the roads to the west. There they were systematically strafed to produce yet greater terror. The Luftwaffe bombed railroads, but left highways untouched so that there would be no hindrance to the advance of German ground forces.

(The Germans had first employed these tactics in the Serbian campaign of 1915 where their military value had been established to the satisfaction of the High Command.)

King Leopold capitulated on May 28, 1940.

### *The Battle of France*

Before that event the German attack on France through Luxembourg and Belgium had gone far.

Within two days from its beginning on May 10, 1940, the Ger-

mans crossed the Meuse at Sedan.

The panzer divisions of von Kleist had found the forest tracks of the Ardennes no obstacle, and von Rundstedt's armies poured through the gap at Sedan and widened it steadily.

The situation was clearly critical enough to demand that new allied chiefs be called in.

On May 10, 1940, Neville Chamberlain gave way to Winston Churchill as British Prime Minister.

All that the new chieftain could offer his countrymen was "blood, toil, tears, and sweat. Our only aim is victory . . . for without victory there is no survival." (May 13, 1940.)

On May 13, 1940, Reynaud, champion of the offensive, succeeded Daladier as Premier of France, and 5 days later General Gamelin, exponent of the defensive, was replaced by 73-year-old General Weygand as commander of the French armies.

Changes in the French civil and in the military command did not check the German advance.

Penetration of the French Ninth Army's position at Sedan (May 15, 1940) was instantly followed by a race of the attackers west towards the Channel which they reached at Abbeville on May 21, 1940. The road to Paris lay open to the Germans, but they sought to trap the French-British field armies.

Dive bombers, serving as accurate long range artillery, cleared out centers of resistance and allowed defending troops no time to reorganize.

Panzer divisions were the spearhead of the ground attack, with infantry following in trucks and on foot.

The line of advance was long and exposed, but its velocity and surprise penetration into what had been rear areas effectually prevented the delivery of any effective blows on its flanks.

The Allied armies in France were separated and thrown into disorder.

That portion of them which was to the north of the German advance upon the Channel ports was restricted to rear-guard actions in an area which was steadily shrinking in size under Nazi assaults. At their backs was the sea and the port of Dunkirk.

On May 27, 1940, their evacuation from the region of Dunkirk was begun. By June 4, 1940, it had been achieved.

The British navy, its activities supplemented by those of the heroic "small vessels pool," the R. A. F., whose fighters maintained an umbrella over the region during critical days, together with merciful periods of hazy weather, combined to work a miracle.

More than 320,000 troops, over one-third of them French, were brought off from Dunkirk's jetties and beaches in those 10 days.

The brilliance of the achievement was dimmed by the fact that all equipment heavier than machine guns had to be left behind.

The German armies then attacked to the south on June 5, 1940, and simultaneously thrust west towards France's Atlantic ports.

Attempts to restore a front in France failed.

Continued systematic bombing of towns and of refugees on the roads produced a decisive effect by further disorganizing the French armies.

Neither the so-called Weygand Line, which was a hastily organized anti-tank zone, nor the lines of the Aisne or the Marne rivers could withstand the assault.

The Maginot Line was turned from the rear, and, its garrison depleted by drafts for the field armies, was breached by frontal attack from across the Rhine.

On June 14, 1940, Paris, previously declared an open city, was abandoned to the Germans.

Marshal Pétain was brought in as Premier on June 16, 1940, and declared "with a heavy heart I say we must cease to fight."

His new government refused the alternative of withdrawing to North Africa and keeping up the fight, and on June 16, 1940, voted to seek an armistice.

The Armistice was signed at Compiègne, under the most humiliating circumstances that the Nazis could contrive, on June 22, 1940, and three days later it became effective.

Italy was included in the negotiations leading up to the Armistice and in the Armistice itself.

On June 10, 1940, she had changed her role of Germany's



“non-belligerent ally” for that of a combatant, and started to invade France.

By this action Italy’s subjection to Nazi control was all but completed.

### *The Results of German Victories*

Defense and a defensive attitude had not been enough to meet the challenge of the German mechanized armies.

Nearly all of France, including territory giving immediate access to Fascist Spain, was occupied by the victors, who appropriated all available resources for German use.

“Unoccupied France” was ruled from Vichy from June 25, 1940, to November 27, 1942, when the Nazis moved in after the Allies landed in North Africa.

Between July 9 and July 11, 1940, the Third French Republic ceased to exist, and all governmental powers were vested in Marshal Petain as Chief of State, whose role became increasingly that of a Hitler tool.

Some Frenchmen, answering the call first voiced by General de Gaulle on June 18, 1940, continued to resist the dictators under the direction of a French National Committee set up in London on June 23, 1940, and in association with Britain, the ally to whom France had promised the year before that she would not conclude a separate armistice.

They called themselves “Free French” at first, and later (July 13, 1942) adopted the appropriate title of “Fighting French.”

### *The Battle of Britain*

After the French Armistice, Britain, the last of Germany’s declared enemies, stood alone.

As a Cockney put it “she had reached the final round, and was playing for the championship on the home grounds.”

The odds appeared to be against her.

1. By their conquests the Germans had acquired many convenient bases from which bombers and protecting fighters could operate against Britain.
2. They likewise had in their possession many “Invasion Ports” on the south shore of the Channel where they gathered ships and barges specially equipped for a cross-Channel dash and a landing.



3. Furthermore, the initiative was in German hands.

British troops evacuated from Dunkirk were weary, disorganized, and without proper weapons to resist a mass invasion.

The ability of the British navy to deal with Field Marshal Goering's land-based Luftwaffe was uncertain.

As on previous occasions Hitler prefaced Germany's next military effort with propaganda.

In his address to the Reichstag on July 19, 1940, he pretended to offer Britain peace—on Germany's terms—and declared, "I can see no reason why this war must go on."

He appealed to "reason and common sense in Britain" to recognize the hopelessness and uselessness of continuing the struggle, and threatened Germany's remaining military opponent with the phrase: "There are no more islands."

Goering, newly created Marshal of the Reich, explained the threat implicit in der Fuehrer's phrase.

"The Luftwaffe has prepared the last conquest of the last enemy."

Air power was to bring Hitler's prophecy to pass that "A great Empire will be destroyed—an Empire that it was never my intention to destroy or harm."

Air power, according to the German plan, was to soften Britain up for the invasion without which the German objective could not be attained.

What Weygand had described as the Battle of France had ended on June 25, 1940.

On August 8, 1940, the Battle of Britain began.

Mass operations in daytime were the rule at first, with as many as 100 bombers engaged in a single operation.

The Luftwaffe's objective varied from time to time; at first it was British naval bases, and warships and convoys in the narrow seas, later it was British airfields, still later London's docks, industries, and people.

The fighter squadrons of the R. A. F. equipped with Spitfires and Hurricanes again showed their mettle.

As at Dunkirk they inflicted heavy losses on the Luftwaffe, at a ratio reaching as high as 4:1, and managed by their organization and control, and by the dispersion of their

airfields to keep sufficient fighters in the air to deny the Germans success.

Britain was later to confess that at a crucial stage she had only five fighters in reserve.

The Luftwaffe shifted its tactics as well as its objectives.

They provided heavy fighter escorts for their bombers; as many as 5:1 in late September 1940.

They flew at great heights (5-6 miles) sacrificing accuracy of bombing to safety, and forcing the defending fighters to climb to great heights before engaging in combat.

They engaged in mass raids at night, and by day sought to draw off the British fighters from inland areas by diversion raids along the coast.

But the R. A. F. remained in the ring and punished its adversary decisively.

Their planes were good, their pilots were well trained and their coordination of listening devices, spotters, filter stations, operations officers, and fighter squadrons excellent.

The latter were directed against the enemy from the ground.

On one notable day a single squadron made 21 flights and contacted the enemy on each occasion.

They were not content with defensive action.

On August 25, 1940, the Bomber Command of the R. A. F. flew directly over Berlin and bombed it for the first time.

Even earlier they had begun to carry the war to the enemy by air by bombing communication centers and the Invasion Ports on the Continent.

Britain, and especially London, took a terrible beating.

But even in London the physical damage was dispersed over a great area.

Casualties, largely civilian, were heavy, but German terrorism failed to produce the demoralizing effect intended by its authors.

Cold anger, rather than fright, was the result of casualties.

Morale was raised rather than lowered.

In early October the German attacks diminished both in frequency and number.

Nuisance raids replaced those which had been assigned major objectives.

Heavy bombings of individual targets had to be endured later. Coventry was mercilessly bombed on the night of November 14/15, 1940, while London was showered with incendiaries in December.

### *Results of Battle of Britain*

But it gradually became clear that Britain had weathered the storm.

No invasion had taken place, although it was rumored that invasion fleets had left the shelter of French harbors.

Britain must continue in a defensive role, but she had gained invaluable time to strengthen her defenses.

She had reorganized and reequipped her army with the products of British industry and American arsenals.

A Home Guard of 500,000 enthusiasts had been formed.

An Air Raid Precaution Service had been set up and functioned well.

It was needed, for in the period of mass attacks there were 30,000 serious fires in London alone.

Britain had survived the German attack.

The R. A. F. had rightly earned Churchill's praise (August 20, 1940) "Never in the field of human conflict was so much owed by so many to so few."

So long as Britain survived Germany was denied a European triumph, and for just so long the democracies retained a first rate base for operations against German-ruled countries.

## Section C

### *Japanese Actions 1939-1942*

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Japanese ambitions for dominion in East Asia were not satisfied by the gains she had made at China's expense in the period 1931-1939.

They continued their drive toward their ultimate objectives with renewed vigor.

In the opening months of 1939, Japan seized critical islands.

1. The Island of Hainan.

This furnished a base for further Japanese operations against South West China and against French Indo-China.

2. Spratley Islands.

These were small, hardly more than coral reefs (like Wake Island), but were conveniently close to the Philippines and to Borneo.

Quite as purposeful was the distribution by the Japanese of narcotics among Chinese in the occupied territory.

The newly acquired islands would place Japan in more favorable position for later adventures.

The narcotics would, at the moment, weaken the Chinese will to resist, and ruin their future physique as well.

### *Japan Extends Her Operations After September 1, 1939*

When war broke in Europe on September 1, 1939, Japan was presented with major opportunities.

At that moment Japanese armed forces were comparatively inactive.

Optimists declared that her attempt to conquer China had bogged down.

They argued that the Chinese, under Chiang K'ai-shek, were resisting valiantly, and that China was of enormous size.

They pointed out that great areas were free from Japanese control.



A more accurate view of the situation is that the failure of the Japanese to press their campaign in China was due to the fact that they were preparing for major actions elsewhere—a view which is no discredit to the fighting Chinese.

With European powers possessed of major interests in Far East deeply involved elsewhere, Japan continued her “coast creeping policy” in critical areas in November 1939.

1. In the region of Kwantung (near Canton and Hong Kong).
2. At Yamchow and Nanning (on borders of French Indo-China).

### *Japan in Indo-China*

With the “Fall of France” and the ensuing “Battle of Britain” (May-October 1940) Japan’s opportunities became golden. France had become Vichy France—Britain had her hands full at home, and in the Middle East.

Accordingly, Premier Konoye of Japan talked loudly of the “Great East Asia Co-Prosperity Sphere.”

General Hata declared “We must not . . . miss this rare opportunity . . . Japan must act drastically against the powers who obstruct her policy.”

Japan did more than talk—she acted, and acted swiftly, and as always, with an eye to her main objectives.

Vichy France resisted hardly at all when Japan sought to gain control of Indo-China, and the colony itself was almost without military resources.

This French colony was important because of its

1. Resources (rice, metals, harbors) which were of special value to Japan.
2. Geographical position which was likewise of great military importance to the Japanese. Indo-China lay within bombing range of the Burma Road (China’s lifeline for supplies) and was close to Malaya (British base at Singapore).

By the end of July 1940 the French colonial authorities under Vichy’s control had:

1. Recognized the “special requirements of Japanese troops in China.”

2. Turned the French concession at Shanghai over to Japan.
3. Prohibited the transit of munitions through Indo-China to Chungking (Chinese capital and center of resistance), and allowed Japanese "inspectors" to enforce this prohibition within Indo-China.

They appropriated for Japan's use supplies which China valued at over \$8,000,000.

4. The French completely capitulated by September 22, 1940. Japanese military and naval occupation followed swiftly (September 1940-June 1941).  
All ports, flying fields, railways, and all resources fell under Japan's control.

### *Japan Signs the Pact of Berlin*

Japan's rapid occupation of Indo-China was achieved as the result of pressure applied to Vichy by both Tokyo and Berlin.

Berlin's aid was enthusiastically given Japan because on September 27, 1940, Japan became a full fledged member of the Berlin-Rome-Tokyo military alliance (Pact of Berlin).

Significant clauses appeared in this Tripartite Pact:

"Germany and Italy recognize and respect the leadership of Japan in the establishment of a new order in Great East Asia."

"Germany, Italy, and Japan . . . undertake to assist one another with all political, economic and military means when one of the contracting powers is attacked by a power not at present involved in the European war or in the Chinese-Japanese conflict."

This was much more definite than the vague terms of the Anti-Comintern Pact of 1936. Mr. Hull (Secretary of State) had described the latter as meaning that "if you stepped on the tail of one of them (Germany, Italy, or Japan), the other two would holler."

Not much imagination was required to see what power the allies had in mind here, especially since Japan, speaking through Foreign Minister Matsuoka, soon declared "I fling this challenge to America. If she is going . . . to stick blindly and stubbornly to the status quo in the Pacific, then we will fight America."

### *America's Reactions*

The United States was quickly aware that the words of the Treaty and the actions of Japan constituted a fresh menace to her interests. But the people were already alarmed.

Congress had passed the Selective Service Act, September 16, 1940.

(In addition to the developments in Pacific it is well to remember that France had fallen, and that the Battle of Britain was raging at that time).

The United States gave China 50 millions of credit.

An Executive Order put an embargo on export of scrap iron and aviation gasoline to Japan.

### *Japanese Diplomatic Activities*

But the Japanese kept on their way, which lay invitingly open.

1. Negotiations with Thailand, based on diplomatic intrigue and economic penetration dating from 1935, were opened in 1940 and continued into 1941.

As a result, Japan quietly obtained a position of controlling influence in this vital area.

2. Negotiations between Japan and the U. S. S. R. led to their Non-Aggression Pact of April 13, 1941, which promised no war for five years.

The U. S. S. R. already threatened by Hitler, wished to guard against the danger of being forced to fight in Siberia, while resisting a German onslaught in the west.

(Hitler's attack on the U. S. S. R. was actually made on June 22, 1941.)

3. Negotiations between Japan and the Netherlands East Indies, begun much earlier, were pushed hard.

The Japanese rated these islands as part of their "Greater East Asia."

They coveted the islands' oil, rubber, naval, and air bases.

They pressed hard for economic concessions (oil especially) which they had failed to get in the fall of 1940.

The Dutch stood firm and refused these demands although they faced dire consequences in so doing.

### *America's Counter Measures*

We in the United States saw the meaning of these developments.

We began to take more definite measures.



1. American engineers were sent to speed traffic via the Burma Road.
2. American airmen were allowed to join Chiang K'ai-shek. They became General Chennault's "Flying Tigers."
3. The Lend-Lease Act, passed March 11, 1941, gave material aid to China as well as to Britain, and involved a clear acknowledgment that China and United States were part of the Democratic Front.
4. The "U. S. Forces in the Far East" were created by War Department order dated July 26, 1941, and Lieutenant General Douglas MacArthur was placed in command.
5. An Executive order froze Japanese assets (Britain and the Netherlands East Indies did the same) on July 26, 1941, as Vichy had made final submission to Japanese (July 22-29, 1941).

### *Diplomatic Conversations Between America and Japan*

The United States was still seeking to avoid war, although the national mind was made up as to the stand we must take in the Pacific to guard our interests there.

On the initiative of Admiral Nomura (Japanese Ambassador to U. S.) secret conversations were begun March 1941, on the general subject of Japanese-American relations.

These conversations were continued into the fall months of 1941, but no offer was made by the Japanese to surrender either the territories which they had seized, or to abandon their current policies. We held out for both of these actions.

A special envoy (Kurusu) was sent from Japan to assist in the conduct of the negotiations. The Japanese government chose a Liberal, like Nomura, to render its envoy more acceptable, and therefore able the more easily to prolong the negotiations.

In Japan the new government under Tojo:

1. Continued to talk of Japan's peaceful purposes.
2. Still shouted about "Great East Asia."
3. Declared threateningly that the United States now had "a last opportunity to make amends for past aggression."

Yet when Kurusu arrived at San Francisco he expressed the hope that he would "make a touchdown" in his talks with Mr. Hull.



But on that day U. S. marines were ordered out of Japanese dominated Tientsin, Peiping, and Shanghai. This action indicated that the Government viewed the situation as critical. Moreover, as the conversations developed, Mr. Hull consulted frequently with representatives of Britain, China, and Dutch East Indies.

With America these three constituted the "ABCD Powers." All of them had vital interests in current problems of the Pacific area.

Clearly Kurusu was *not* going to score a touchdown.

The situation was critical.

On December 5, 1941, the American public was informed that Japan had answered America's query regarding the purpose of large scale Japanese troop movements in Indo-China with the statement that they were present there as a precautionary measure (against a Chinese threat), and that their numbers had been exaggerated.

On December 6, 1941, the President made a last appeal to Hirohito, Emperor of Japan.

He pointed out that the Japanese forces sent into Indo-China were so large as to create "A reasonable doubt . . . that this continuing concentration . . . is not defensive in its character."

He added that "none of the peoples (involved) can sit either indefinitely or permanently on a keg of dynamite."

He expressed the hope that, through the Emperor, peace might be preserved.

The Sunday papers of December 7, 1941, told of the President's latest action.

They also described the return of American troops to camps after maneuvers in the South.

They chronicled the fact that it was the birthday of King Leopold of Belgium.

The same day Japan's envoys made an appointment at the State Department for 1:45 p.m.

They appeared at 2:05 and were received at 2:20 p.m.

They handed Secretary Hull a document asserting that the Japanese loved peace and had sought it constantly.

They even insisted that the Pact of Berlin (Axis Alliance, 1940) was part of this effort.

Here was as characteristic an Axis technique as was found in their further assertion:

“Obviously it is the intention of the American Government to conspire with Great Britain and other countries to obstruct Japan’s efforts towards the establishment of peace through the creation of a new order in East Asia . . .”

Mr. Hull told the Japanese that “In all my fifty years of public service I have never seen a document that was more crowded with infamous falsehoods and distortions—infamous falsehoods and distortions on a scale so huge that I never imagined until today that any Government on this planet was capable of uttering them.”

### *Pearl Harbor*

At the very moment the Japanese envoys were closeted with the American Secretary of State, Japan was committing an act of war without warning.

It was the tenth such action on the part of an Axis power. Simultaneous attacks were delivered by Japanese forces against Malaya, Hong Kong, Guam, the Philippines, Wake and Midway, and upon the Hawaiian Islands.

The carefully planned attack on the last named point was delivered at 7:55 a.m. Honolulu time, 1:25 p.m. EST.

After the event Japan formally declared war upon the United States at 9:00 p.m. EST, December 7, 1941.

This nation was thereby plunged into the hostilities raging all over the world.

There followed in due consequence:

1. The United States Declaration of War on Japan, December 8, 1941.
2. The Declarations of War upon the United States by Japan’s allies (Germany and Italy), and the United States Declarations of War upon them on December 11, 1941.

We, like Britain, China, the U. S. S. R., and the Governments in Exile, became engaged in a struggle for nothing less than survival.

### *Japan on the Offensive*

For three months after Pearl Harbor the Japanese had it their own way in the Pacific area.

The story of events there was that of the collapse of the United Nations' limited defenses.

Japan resumed her march toward her declared objectives.

By February 1942 she had actually enlarged them by including India and Australia in the list of lands to be brought under Japanese control.

Control of the Pacific area depended upon the retention or seizure by the combatants of useful bases in the Pacific islands and on the mainland of Asia.

### *Japanese Attacks on Pacific Islands*

Island bases were quickly seized by Japan.

Japan's immediate defensive position was such that she could make attacks from her well developed island bases, and use her control of seas to reduce and appropriate the weakly held islands of the United Nations.

Pearl Harbor was, however, retained by the United States in spite of a naval disaster whose extent was not revealed to the nation for reasons inherent in the general defensive situation. It remained as a base, but the fighting strength of the fleet based upon it was obviously reduced, to the great disadvantage of the United Nations.

Hong Kong was a major British base defended by a garrison of 12,000.

It was attacked by a superior Japanese force on December 7, 1941.

Within three days the mainland area was evacuated and the only airfield was lost.

On December 19, 1941, the Japanese landed on the island itself which surrendered December 25, 1941, after the last reservoirs had fallen into Jap hands.

Hong Kong's loss was seriously crippling to the Allies in terms of military operations, and its capture caused serious damage to the prestige ("face") of the United Nations in the Far East.

U. S. island bases were attacked by the Japanese at the same time.

1. Vital links in the line from Hawaii to the Philippines felt the blows.

Midway Island's Marine garrison held out and punished its attackers severely.



Wake Island's resistance was equally heroic, but could not be prolonged beyond December 23.

Guam, in process of being developed under the tardy appropriation of 1938, was not in a position to hold out, and the Japanese gained a new island base there by December 13, 1941.

2. The Philippines also came under attack on December 7.

The Japanese concentrated their offensive on the Island of Luzon where they employed high velocity tactics in their assault by carrier and land based planes.

The American airfields were smothered by the initial bombing and many planes were destroyed on the ground. Japanese control of the air was thereafter assured.

The American naval base at Cavite was also bombed into uselessness.

Landings in North and South Luzon followed after a stalwart stand by American forces along the Lingayen Gulf was collapsed by a Japanese movement around the flank, and the enemy moved from both directions upon the capital.

MacArthur's Filipinos and Americans were too few to stop the invaders without either air or naval support, or without renewal of their supplies.

By the end of December the defending forces withdrew to Bataan peninsula, a mountainous area north of the entrance to Manila Bay, and to the island forts in the Bay itself.

Thereafter the stoutest resistance, developing into an epic of human courage, was put up by the men who called themselves "bastards of Bataan."

Heavy Japanese attacks, beginning in late January 1942 were beaten off for a time, but Bataan had to be abandoned on April 9, 1942.

Corregidor, with the remnants of its garrison under General Wainright, was forced to capitulate on May 6, 1942. General MacArthur had been evacuated under orders to take command in Australia.



## *Attacks on the Asiatic Mainland—Thailand, Malaya and Burma*

On the Asiatic mainland likewise the Japanese struck suddenly and vigorously.

1. Thailand, which the Japanese had earlier begun to penetrate diplomatically, and with military missions, was swiftly invaded on December 7, 1941.

By December 21, 1941, the Thai kingdom had become the formal ally of Japan.

It furnished Japanese with enormous supplies of food, useful metals and, above all, new bases for use against Burma and Malaya, and also against China proper.

2. British Malaya was vital to the United Nations.

It constituted a major source of rubber, tin, and (with Netherlands East Indies) quinine for them all.

Singapore lay at the southern tip of an island at the southern end of the Malay Peninsula.

A great British naval base was situated there, but at the moment it was without the capital elements of a battle fleet save for the new battleship *Prince of Wales* and the battle cruiser *Repulse* which had arrived on December 2, 1941.

The disaster at Pearl Harbor prevented any possible immediate use of Singapore by the United States battle fleet.

A garrison of 60,000 was there and was in process of being reinforced, but the entire area lacked planes and equipment which were in greater demand elsewhere, e. g., Libya-U. S. S. R.

The Japanese began their attack December 7, 1941.

Swift surprise landings were negotiated developing from North and East.

The main British defenses faced the sea and the South, hundreds of miles from the scene of invasion.

The airfield at Khota Baru was at once lost to the defenders, and when the British capital ships sought to destroy a Japanese convoy, both were destroyed by air attacks (December 10, 1941). In view of the consequences, the destruction of *Repulse* and *Prince of Wales* must be considered the turning point in the campaign and a major landmark in the history of warfare.

A quick Japanese drive from the eastward cut across the bottleneck of the peninsula.

Infiltration tactics by small units armed with deadly infantry cannon and mortars, plus tank attacks (to which flooded rice fields proved no obstacle) were skillfully combined by the attackers.

Line after line of resistance was forced or turned, the enemy proceeding at virtually a marching pace.

By the end of January only the island of Singapore, already heavily bombed, remained in British hands.

The Japanese got a footing on the island at many points soon after, and the last reservoirs were taken by the invaders on February 14, 1942.

Singapore surrendered the next day. By that time the military situation was not only hopeless but destroyed.

### 3. Burma, a British colony, was as vulnerable as Malaya.

There were fewer than 20,000 troops available for its defense. Here the attack developed from Japan's Thailand base early in January 1942.

By the end of that month, the useful Burmese port of Moulmein was lost. The enemy was held for a time along the Salween, but with the loss of that river line all doubt was removed that Burma was lost also.

Desperate work by the American Volunteer Group and by the R. A. F. could only impede the operation of Japanese airfields. They could not smash attacking columns, nor form the spear head for an assault by their own ground forces which were decisively outnumbered.

Rangoon, Burma's chief city, was abandoned by March 10, 1942, and Lieutenant General Stilwell, U. S. A. and the British General Alexander led a composite force (British, Indian, and Chinese) over the frontier of India. The retreat from Lower Burma along the Irrawaddy and Sittang river lines had been tactically brilliant, but strategically unavailing.

### *Attack on the Netherlands East Indies*

The Japanese conquest of Malaya and Burma paved the way for their attack on the Netherlands East Indies which had gone to war against Japan immediately after December 7, 1941 without waiting to be invaded.

The Indies were rich in materials which the enemy needed.

Tin, quinine, rubber, and especially oil were the major items in Japan's list of prospective booty.

Even if a "scorched earth" policy were resolutely applied Japan's adversaries would lose these badly needed supplies.

Centers of resistance in the N. E. I. were vulnerable because separated, and because of numerical weakness—less than 80,000 men in the total N. E. I. force.

Strenuous efforts had been made by the Dutch to strengthen the islands since 1938, but their forces were very badly depleted at the actual hour of the Japanese onfall against Sumatra and Java because prior to that time the Dutch had expended much of their air and sea power in (1) Attacking Japanese shipping in the South China Sea (2) Supporting the British defense of Malaya, and (3) Bombing Japanese concentrations in Mindanao.

Some addition was made to the fighting strength of the islands when the United States Asiatic Fleet changed its base from Manila to Surabaya (Java), but there it was exposed to the superior air and sea power at the disposal of Japan.

Their conquest of Thailand and Malaya gave the Japanese nearby bases which they exploited to the full, while, in addition, Japan had occupied the islands of Borneo, Timor, Celebes, and part of New Guinea to the south (January 23, 1942).

A Japanese convoy was badly mauled by American destroyers in Macassar straits January 24-26, 1942.

However, this did not prevent Japanese air raids and actual landings in the N. E. I. in early February 1942.

It was the principal islands (Java and Sumatra) which felt the main blows of the attack.

Java, the last stronghold of N. E. I. resistance, was first outflanked by attacks pressed against Sumatra and Bali. The defending naval force was then destroyed in the Battle of the Java Sea. The Japanese landings were almost unopposed and the campaign came to an end when the Dutch Army was smothered at Surabaya.

Even so, a "scorched earth" policy was resolutely carried out and oil wells, stocks and refineries were efficiently destroyed by the Dutch.

By March 9, 1942, the Japanese were in full control.



### *Summary*

For three full months after Pearl Harbor the Japanese possessed the initiative and set the pace.

At the start they had the advantage of position as a result of their earlier conquests.

A veteran army and sufficient matériel for the work in hand were at their disposal.

They were forced to drive fast and furiously.

Time, if intelligently employed, would eventually be an ally of the United Nations, but those nations could not afford to "sell space for time." Eventually they would be forced to "buy" it back at a high price.

### *The United Nations' Counter Attack*

The United Nations were painfully aware of this menace, and of the other adverse elements in the situation.

They saw the need to build up their strength in India, Australia, and New Zealand.

All of these were threatened by the Japanese advance, and all must be held to provide bases for an eventual United Nations offensive.

The American public became aware of these necessities as it learned the locations of Port Darwin (northern Australia) and Port Moresby (southern New Guinea).

Each was raided by the Japanese from their old and from their new island bases, while the latter was threatened by the advance of Japanese land forces from bases on the north side of the island.

The United Nations public applauded the United States Navy's "hit and run" attack on the Japanese-held island in the Marshalls and Gilberts on January 31, 1942.

General MacArthur was ordered from the Philippines to the Australian Command in early March 1942, and on April 19, 1942, was formally given command of United Nations' forces in the Southwest Pacific.

United States forces began to land in Australia where they soon had a chance to compare the merits of American P-40s and Japanese Zeros.

Other Japanese bases in the Pacific were, in their turn, given attention by the United States Navy.



Wake and Marcus Islands, the latter less than 1000 m. from Tokyo, were raided by a Task Force early in March 1942. The Japanese bases in the Philippines were bombed by our flyers.

Tokyo itself was raided by United States Army bombers operating from the U. S. S. *Hornet* on April 18, 1942.

A week later MacArthur's A. E. F. took over the Fighting French island of New Caledonia which became a useful base for defense and offense on the part of the United Nations. The Japanese proved that they were still capable of action by landing forces in the Aleutians where they seized Kiska and Attu in June 1942.

This action followed a bombing raid against our base at Dutch Harbor which was decisively repulsed.

But the mounting strength of the United Nations became evident in a variety of actions.

1. The Battle of the Coral Sea, May 4-8, 1942.
2. The Battle of Midway, June 3-6, 1942.
3. The seizure and retention of Japanese-held bases on the Solomon Islands, August 7, 1942 (Guadalcanal, Tulagi, Gavatu, and Tanambogo).
4. The establishment of bases in the Andreanofs (Atka), from which Kiska and Attu might be bombed, as was announced October 3, 1942.
5. The halting of the Japanese offensive against Port Moresby in New Guinea, and the delivery of a counterattack through the mountain jungles of the Stanley Range against Buna and Gona.
6. A series of naval actions in the Solomons region which caused heavy losses to the Japanese (Savo Island, August 8-9; Eastern Solomons, August 23-25; Cape Esperance, October 11-12; Santa Cruz Islands, October 26; Guadalcanal, November 13-15; Lunga Point, November 30-December 1, 1942).

These actions were all good portents.

They hurt Japanese sea power, as had the activities of United States submarines in Japan's home waters.

They otherwise improved the position of the United Nations and worsened that of Japan.

Yet a long road lay ahead.

The routes from the United States to Australia were long,

whether via the Pacific or around Africa, and they had to be vigilantly guarded.

Great dispersion of our naval strength resulted, and concentration is necessary to win command of the seas.

The route from Britain to India and Australia was likewise long, and convoys imposed added strains on the British fleet.

The U. S. S. R. was at close grips with the Nazis on her Western front.

It was self evident that her situation in the west was such that she could not afford voluntarily to engage Japan in the Far East.

If she were attacked there it was doubtful if our rearmament program had progressed far enough to enable us to give her immediate and substantial support in the air.

If she engaged Japan, could United States bombers be serviced and supplied in Kamchatka, whence they could bomb Japan from bases in Soviet territory?

So after a year of war in the Pacific it appeared that Japan was still to call the plays.

For more than six months she had been in occupation of those critical points which she seized during the period of declared war in the Pacific Islands and on the Asiatic mainland.

It could be assumed that her capabilities for military and naval action based on them had been increased.

She could still threaten an attack on North India's industrial centers from Burma.

She could still threaten the United Nations' "lifeline" across the Pacific upon whose maintenance so much depends.

She could still threaten Australia and New Zealand from the north and northeast.

It therefore seemed a reasonable estimate that only a relentless and sustained attack could alter the existing balance in the Pacific area.

Long sea lanes must be kept open by maintaining full control of the sea.

Island after island must be reduced and built into the United Nations' organization for an eventual full-scale offensive.

Meanwhile India, Australia, and New Zealand must be defended, and China must be assisted to turn an heroic defen-

sive into a victorious offensive.

All these were "musts" for the United States and the United Nations.

## Section D

### *Battles for the Mediterranean 1940-1942*

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The Mediterranean is a great inland sea.

From time immemorial its seaways have brought the lands about its shores into close association.

In ancient times Phoenicians and Greeks ranged along its shore lines and colonized them and its islands.

Rome's provinces ringed the inland sea about.

In more modern times the Turks, Italians, Spaniards, French, British, Germans, Russians, and Balkan peoples have all developed properties and interests related to it.

The Dardanelles and the Bosphorous have served to link the Western Powers with Russia and to bring them into a common diplomatic orbit.

Even before the construction of the Suez Canal it served as a major line of communication between Western Europe and Eastern Asia.

Since the opening of the Canal (1869) the Red Sea coast of its southern approaches, the Sudan, Eritrea, British Somaliland, and Aden, have acquired a Western significance.

Inevitably, therefore, the interests and policies of the many nations concerned with the area have often clashed.

Inevitably, any alteration or any threatened alteration in the status of any region within the area has always caused grave concern to all the nations involved.

At the outbreak of war in 1939 the truth of these statements was exhibited by—

1. The U. S. S. R.'s continued interest in access to the sea which she showed through political and economic understandings with Turkey who controlled the Straits (refortified in 1936).
2. Spain's possession of Spanish Morocco and her share in the international control of Tangier.
3. The French colonies of Morocco and Tunis and her mandated territories in Syria.



4. Italian Libya, Somaliland, and Ethiopia.
5. British possessions, Gibraltar, Malta, and Cyprus, her mandate of Palestine and her armed forces resident in the independent state of Egypt.

### *International Rivalries and Activities 1939*

Even before the commencement of hostilities international friction was evident in this region.

1. Italy had sought, and obtained, a rectification of Libya's frontiers from Britain and France.

Fascists had demanded that their government take Tunisia from France.

The fortifications of the island of Pantelleria (between Sicily and Tunisia) had been developed, a heavy barbed wire defense had been built along the frontier between Libya and Egypt, the military road east from Tripoli had been somewhat improved, and the province had been given a military organization.

2. Spain, associate of Rome and Berlin, had forcefully expressed her ambition for exclusive control of Tangier and had heavily fortified Algeciras and Ceuta (north and south of the Straits of Gibraltar) with German assistance.

3. Britain, whose Mediterranean interests dated back to the sixteenth century, was—

Perfecting the defenses of Gibraltar and Malta.

Improving the facilities of Alexandria as a naval base.

A floating dock was built in Britain and towed to the port. Developing the facilities of Haifa (Palestine), one terminus of the pipe line from Iraq, as an oil port.

Strengthening Aden (Red Sea coast of Arabia).

British Somaliland was undefendable in case of attack from the Italian territories which bordered it, and the Red Sea approaches to the British line of communications in the Mediterranean must be protected.

*N.B.:* Britain rightly regarded Gibraltar, Malta, and Alexandria as the keys to her position in the Mediterranean. She was aware, however, as all nations had been since 1918, that aviation had revolutionized the military situation in the Mediterranean area. The Sea had become a narrow corridor, and military actions on its shores, its availability as a line of communications, and the role of

sea power in the area had all been profoundly affected.

4. Germany had, through aid given Spain in 1936, got her foot inside the Mediterranean door.

For more than 30 years she had been trying to obtain a foothold on the North African coast, but it had been a major principle of the policy of the older Mediterranean powers to block her.

Franco's debt to Germany suggested that Hitler might be able to range Spain and Spanish Morocco on his side, and make use of Spanish bases, many of which had been built by Germans during the Spanish War.

### *War in the Mediterranean to September 1940*

From the time of Germany's attack on Poland on September 1, 1939, until Italy joined her ally in attacking France on June 10, 1940, France and Britain held a powerful position in the Mediterranean.

1. French bases at Oran and Bizerte supplemented those in British hands, and a French squadron functioned under British command.
2. France and Britain had pledged assistance to Greece (April 13, 1939) if she were forced to resist aggression, and on October 19, 1939, sought further to safeguard their Mediterranean position by a treaty with Turkey promising mutual aid against aggression.

However, Italy's entrance into the war and the fall of France altered the situation radically.

German and Italian armistice commissions took over the resources of Morocco, Tunisia, and Syria.

The French Mediterranean fleet was immobilized at Toulon, demilitarized at Alexandria, and attacked by the British at Oran and Dakar to prevent its serving the Axis.

The British must hereafter maintain control of the Sea alone. The Italians in Libya could concentrate their attention on Egypt since they no longer had to guard against a French attack from Tunisia.

The loss of their French ally in Syria cut the British off from direct connection with Turkey and consequently diminished the protective value of the Anglo-Turkish Treaty of October 19, 1939.

Axis airpower, based on Sicily and Libya, made communications so difficult to maintain that the British were forced to employ the route from England to Egypt by way of the Cape of Good Hope.

This added 13 weeks to the length of voyages, and required the services of seven times as many ships as the Mediterranean route demanded.

From July to September 1940 minor military actions occurred.

The British cut through the belt of Italian wire on the Libyan frontier, cut the water line between Bardia and Fort Capuzzo, and bombarded Italian ports from the sea.

The Italians were likewise active to the east of Egypt in operations based on Ethiopia.

In July they seized points within British Kenya and the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan (Moyale and Kassala).

In August they invaded and conquered British Somaliland and thereby further threatened British traffic on the Red Sea.

### *The First Axis Offensive—Libya—September 1940*

In the same period the Italians reinforced Field Marshal Graziani's army on the western frontier of Egypt.

On September 13, 1940, this army of 200,000 men moved against British advanced positions at El Sollum on a narrow front.

The British Middle East Force, with headquarters in Cairo, had at its disposal in Palestine, Egypt, and the Sudan about 110,000 men.

As Graziani attacked, the British dropped back to their great advanced base at the rail head at Mersa Matruh.

In that vicinity both armies established defense works and waited.

### *Italy Attacks Greece*

Meanwhile the Axis was busy on the other side of the Mediterranean.

Germany extended her political and economic controls in Rumania, and in early October 1940 sent in "instructors" who were the advance guards of a German army.



With a view to gaining other coveted and critical territory in the Balkans Mussolini confronted Greece with an ultimatum on October 28, 1940.

On June 10, 1939, Il Duce had declared "that Italy does not intend to drag other peoples who are her neighbors into this conflict" and was at pains to include Greece among Italy's neighbors.

Now he coupled his ultimatum with an attack from his Albanian frontier.

The Italians won some ground, but in winter fighting the Greeks turned the tables, invaded Albania and threatened its ports in an adroitly waged mountain campaign in which the R. A. F. gave them assistance.

### *The First British Offensive—Libya and Eritrea, 1940-41*

In Egypt Britain was preparing an offensive that was to become a classic example of motorized war.

On December 9, 1940, General Wavell launched a surprise attack around the Italians' southern flank.

His order was simple—"Attack and pursue," but his preparations had been both elaborate and secret, and the cooperation of all arms—army, air, and navy—was notable from the start.

The initial action leading to the capture of Sidi Barrani on December 10, 1940, determined the issue of the campaign.

Its surprise nature and its speed caused Graziani to lose both his control over his command, and his personal composure.

Wavell exploited his initial success to the full, maintained the high initial velocity of his attack, and hence continued in possession of the initiative.

Some positions, such as the critical Halfaya Pass, were abandoned by the Italians, others were reduced by the British after their encirclement.

Simultaneously the Long Range Desert Patrol made 2,000-mile raids deep into the interior of Libya, destroying Italian posts and airfields.

While one of the main British columns proceeded to invest the port of Derna, another moved southwest towards Mekili.

Both objectives were taken on January 30, 1941.



A mobile column then negotiated the 150 miles of rough desert track southwest from Mekili.

It reached the road along which the Italians were retiring from Benghazi an hour and forty minutes before the head of the retreating column. The resulting action, coupled with that about Benghazi resulted in the bagging of some 20,000 prisoners.

By February 8, 1941, the British had occupied El Agheila on the western border of Libya.

In the two-month desert campaign they had destroyed an army, and taken 420 tanks, 1,300 guns and over 133,000 prisoners.

Their speed and skill had kept their own casualties to a minimum—a total of under 3,000 of whom only 604 were listed as killed.

Wavell threw his Middle East Force against the Italians in Ethiopia as well as in Libya.

His units in the Sudan and Kenya received reinforcements from Britain, from South Africa, and from India.

Their numbers, however, were kept at a minimum so that the Middle East Force might throw sufficient weight against Graziani to assure victory, but as victories were won in Libya more troops became available for use in the Ethiopian campaign.

Scots and Indians attacked the mountain fortress of Keren on February 3, 1941, and won this key to Ethiopia after a month of strenuous fighting.

South Africans pressed into Ethiopia from the south. They overcame all opposition on the road to the north and west through port towns on the Indian Ocean, marched 1,725 miles in 53 days and entered the capital city of Addis Ababa on April 6, 1941.

Troops landed from the sea, and others advancing overland from the south, recovered British Somaliland March 17-20, 1941, and British and Indians moved against Massawa from the west and took this capital of Eritrea on April 8, 1941.

These successes allowed the United States to revise the sea zones barred to American ships and enabled them to assist in carrying supplies to Egypt by way of the Red Sea (April 10, 1941).

A converging attack on the mountain position of Amba Alagi

led to the surrender of the Duke of Aosta on May 18, 1941. Isolated Italian forces still held out in the Lake region south of Addis Ababa and at Gondar to the north, but they were successfully eliminated in May and November 1941.

The Italian Empire in Ethiopia had been destroyed.

### ***Revolt in Iraq—Blitzkrieg in the Balkans 1941***

Elsewhere in the Mediterranean area developments were far less favorable for the British and their allies.

1. In Iraq a coup by the native prince El Gailani on April 4, 1941, gave temporary power to Axis partisans and threatened the British grip on the oil fields from Mosul to Basra.

Transport planes proved of great value to the British in defending critical airfields, Indian and British reinforcements threatened Baghdad and the revolt collapsed at the end of May.

2. In the Balkans Germany launched a genuine Blitzkrieg against Greece and Yugoslavia.

The former had been battling Hitler's Axis ally since the previous October.

The latter had recently refused to sign the Pact of Berlin and by so doing defied the Axis.

Some 60,000 British troops had been, or were in process of being, landed in Greece from Libya to aid their ally against the German attack which had threatened ever since the vanguard of German armies entered Bulgaria in the preceding January.

The appearance of Germans, in the guise of "tourists," actually meant the establishment of complete German control over this Balkan kingdom which became a full-fledged Axis partner by signing the Pact of Berlin on March 1, 1941.

From this recently acquired base the Germans struck on April 6, 1941 under the direction of Field Marshal von List. The movement of his mechanized forces in the first 72 hours of the campaign determined its issue.

A two pronged advance in the south reached the Vardar valley with little opposition. Then one column struck southward to Salonika while the other advanced on Monastir via Veles.

Its results were that

1. The junction of Yugoslav and Greek armies was forestalled.
2. The Greek army in the region of Salonika was crushed.
3. The Greek armies in Albania were isolated.
4. The Greek and British defensive plans for the Allied center were aborted.

The lack of Allied air power and mechanized equipment certified the disaster.

Dogged rear-guard action marked the British retreat.

The Greeks earned praise from Hitler.

"Of all our opponents the Greek soldier fought with the greatest bravery, supreme courage, and contempt of death."

The Yugoslav armies never completed their mobilization as German and Hungarian columns pierced and overran their country and on April 18, 1941, Yugoslav generals signed an armistice.

On April 23, 1941, the Greek Government was forced to do the same, and by April 28, 1941, the British had evacuated the bulk of their forces to Crete.

That island was vigorously attacked by the Germans from the air on May 4, 1941.

German bombers, based on the newly acquired airfields of the Peloponnesus, opened the attack.

The handful of R. A. F. planes available was forced to withdraw immediately.

German paratroops floated down from relays of planes and seized the weakly defended airport at Meleme.

They were steadily reinforced by air-borne infantry and their joint operations were fully coordinated with those of supporting dive bombers.

British naval forces smashed a German effort to land troops by sea, but without air support they suffered such losses at the hands of the Luftwaffe as forced their withdrawal.

British remnants retreated through the mountains to the south coast and were evacuated to Egypt.

By May 29, 1942, Crete was in German hands.

### *The Results of Axis Victories*

As a result of these campaigns the Axis had most of the northern



shores of the Mediterranean under their control.

Crete and the Greek islands in the Aegean commanding the approaches to the Dardanelles were in their hands.

These could be used as bases for a further push eastward subject, however, to the limits of the fighter protection which could be given to bombers and transport planes (about 250 m.).

In its advance toward the control of the Mediterranean the Axis had reversed the relative historic rôles of sea and land power in this area.

Wehrmacht and land-based Luftwaffe, rather than a fleet, were their chosen instruments of conquest.

### *Action in Syria*

The Axis made a further effort at Mediterranean conquest by bringing heavy pressure to bear on Vichy France to allow them the use of French colonial bases.

While the Battle of Crete was at its height Germany sent limited Luftwaffe detachments into Syria which was then under the control of the Vichy government.

Britain protested this action, and the United States, which had voiced emphatic disapproval of the invasion of Yugoslavia on April 6, 1941, declared that Franco-German collaboration in French colonies menaced the peace and safety of the Western Hemisphere (May 15, 1941), and that such action made France the instrument of aggression against other peoples and nations (June 5, 1941).

On June 8, 1941, British and Fighting French forces moved to the attack on French Syria in columns based upon Palestine, Transjordan, and recently recovered Iraq.

The British believed that the French armies in Syria would offer a token resistance at most, and their false estimate of the situation marred the campaign from its outset.

Its action dragged on until the armistice of July 12, 1941, which assured British control of the region.

Although geographical contact between Britain and her Turkish ally was thereby restored, the value of that contact was called into question on June 18, 1941.

Turkey then signed a treaty of friendship with Germany "without prejudice to her present obligations (alliance with Britain)."



It guaranteed, so far as Germany's signature was worth anything, the "integrity and inviolability" of Turkish territory and was accompanied by preliminaries for a trade treaty.

The position of Turkey, menaced by Axis control of adjacent lands in Europe and islands near her coast, became even more equivocal than hitherto.

### *The Second Axis Offensive in Libya 1941*

Parallel to some of the actions heretofore noted the Axis took the offensive in Libya.

Wavell's offensive had spent its power in early February 1941 after reaching El Agheila.

British forces were progressively depleted thereafter by drafts for the Greek campaign.

Simultaneously Axis reinforcements, including elements of the German motorized Afrika Korps under General Rommel, landed in Tripoli under the protection of the Luftwaffe which was now based on Sicilian airfields.

On March 24, 1941, Rommel struck.

He had effected his concentrations so secretly that the British were unaware of his strength, and the time of his assault was a complete surprise.

The attack immediately developed into an unlimited offensive.

The slender British advanced forces were overrun, and the coastal towns of Libya were abandoned as Rommel advanced swiftly on the desert tracks of northern Cyrenaica toward the border of Egypt.

Tobruk alone held.

Although isolated it was to hold out against Axis investment for seven months, and thereby to prove that motorized troops can be stopped by a well conceived defense. During the entire period, however, it was never put under attack by Rommel's main striking force.

By mid-May the Axis armies were at Halfaya within the Egyptian frontier.

On June 15 the British sought to dislodge the enemy from that area, but were forced to withdraw after threatening Bardia.

The Axis described the result as "our great defensive victory."

To have called it more would have been unwarranted since

the ensuing Axis counter attack did not develop into a counter offensive.

The German preparations for the attack on the U. S. S. R. (June 22, 1941) had denied Rommel the reinforcements and supplies needed for the further penetration of Egypt. The opposing forces settled down for a time, although patrol activities were incessant.

The British defensive screen followed the line of the frontier from a point to the east of Halfaya.

The Axis positions within the triangle Halfaya—Sidi Omar—Bardia were carefully organized for area defense, particular emphasis being placed upon the provision of main defensive positions, each capable of all around defense.

### *The Second British Offensive in Libya 1941*

The presence of Rommel at Halfaya, the Axis' position in the Balkans, and German penetration into the U. S. S. R. all combined to constitute a major threat to the British position in the Mediterranean in general and in the Middle East in particular.

To eliminate the threat in North Africa by destroying Rommel's armies the British built up a great concentration of men and matériel in Egypt.

General Wavell had been moved to India and General Auchinleck had succeeded him in command of the Middle East Forces, with General Cunningham in charge of the Eighth Army facing Rommel.

The second British Libyan offensive opened on November 17/18, 1941.

A holding action in the north was coupled with a sweep from the south which circled the main Axis positions and sought possession of objectives to the west on the Axis line of communications.

The airfield at Sidi Rezegh was taken, the water pipe line cut west of Bardia, and the Italian Ariete division (armored) engaged at Bir El Gubi.

The British had divided their armor in these efforts, and their attack in the north had failed to restrict the free movement of Rommel's armored forces.

These the German concentrated against individual British brigades which he punished severely and dispersed, notably

in the region of Sidi Rezègh.

From this strong position Rommel moved eastward on November 24, 1941, to threaten the exposed British line of communications.

This line was the more vital since a desperate shortage of ammunition existed among some British units.

The next days were so obviously critical that the British replaced General Cunningham by General Ritchie under whose command it was hoped that the British offensive might be resumed.

British armor was regrouped and New Zealanders moved in the direction of Tobruk to join with the garrison there, which they did on November 26, 1941.

Rommel himself turned to attack in that area on November 27, 1941.

He was able to separate the Tobruk garrison from the advancing New Zealanders and to inflict heavy losses upon the latter.

Ritchie continued to concentrate his forces and to use them in vigorous attacks, while his commandos raided Rommel's communications.

These actions forced Rommel to withdraw rapidly to the west, leaving behind him a number of centers of resistance.

Some of these were not reduced until after the British offensive came to a halt on reaching El Agheila on January 7, 1942 (e. g. Halfaya held out until January 17, 1942).

British losses were put at 18,000 out of about 45,000 men who participated in the campaign.

They claimed to have taken 61,000 prisoners.

Their rate of loss was high, possibly too high in view of the gains achieved, for events in the immediate future proved that this campaign was not decisive.

On January 21, 1942, Rommel attacked the British covering forces near El Agheila.

These quickly withdrew to defensive positions extending south from the coast at El Gazala (about 35 miles west of Tobruk), and Rommel halted his main body facing them.

### *The Third Axis Offensive in Libya 1942*

Later, on May 26, 1942 the third Axis offensive in Libya began.

In the preceding months Axis reinforcements had arrived, cov-



ered in part by heavy Luftwaffe attacks on the British base at Malta.

These attacks limited, but did not destroy, the capacity of this "unsinkable air plane carrier" to harass enemy communications.

The U. S. S. *Wasp* shared in the hazardous work of replenishing Malta's supplies and matériel in the face of Luftwaffe attacks based on Sicily.

Maneuver and mobility again distinguished a desert campaign.

Rommel effected a partial penetration of the deep mine fields in the center of the British positions.

He then attacked Bir Hacheim at the extreme south of the British defense positions.

Its Fighting French garrison refused Rommel's summons to surrender and resisted Axis assaults from May 27 through June 12, 1942, when it was ordered to cut its way out from encirclement.

British armor had moved south to meet Rommel's attack, and Rommel struck at their line of communications, moving through the supposedly impenetrable mine fields in the center.

By destroying Bir Hacheim and forcing the mine fields Rommel completely turned the British southern flank.

On June 13, 1942, he ambushed and destroyed 230 tanks, which action determined the issue of the campaign and forced a general retirement on Egypt.

As Ritchie retired he left a garrison in Tobruk although its supplies were near exhaustion and in spite of the fact that Axis air superiority made it impossible to provision the town adequately from the sea.

The value of this action, in view of the total circumstances was dubious.

The long siege of the previous year was not repeated, and consequently no threat was made to the enemy's communications.

Rommel's motorized forces overwhelmed Tobruk's defenses in two days, and on June 21, 1942, its garrison of over 25,000 men surrendered.

Four days later General Auckinleck assumed personal direction of the Eighth Army as bombers of the U. S. A. A. F. began



to strike at Rommel's columns with increased regularity.

But the Axis drive passed Sollum and Sidi Barrani and the great base at Mersah Matruh, 120 miles within the Egyptian border before increased British resistance and its own exhaustion stopped it on the last good defensive position in front of Alexandria.

Here, on a 40-mile line of defense positions extending from El Alamein to the northern edge of the Qattara Depression, the British halted the Axis' advance.

They had lost upwards of 80,000 men in the campaign, chiefly at Tobruk.

### *The Third British Offensive in Libya 1942*

Through the summer and into the fall of 1942 each side prepared for action and tried out its adversary's strength.

In August the Afrika Korps, together with German and Italian infantry, made a full-scale attack on British positions which was turned back by the well-directed fire of British 25-pounders.

In September, British mobile columns raided Benghazi and Barce, far in rear of Rommel's lines, but on October 3, 1942, Rommel declared in Berlin, "We did not advance in Egypt to be thrown out again. We propose to hold what we have."

The British fleet, together with the R. A. F. and the U. S. A. A. F., made Rommel's communications with Europe increasingly difficult to maintain.

The U. S. Ferry Command flew planes from America to Egypt, and ships carried men and munitions to Red Sea ports.

Among the munitions were late models of U. S. tanks which Rommel admitted "appeared to be of better fighting quality" than their predecessors.

General Alexander, tested at Dunkirk and in Burma, replaced General Auchinleck in command of the Middle East Force, and General Montgomery was put at the head of the British Eighth Army in August 1942.

These actions paved the way for the third British offensive which began at 9:30 p.m. on October 23, 1942.

The short front and the depth of the close-knit Axis positions and their deep-protecting mine fields supported by antitank defense prevented effective maneuver by armored brigades.

Infantry showed its modern power in an assault by a force 60 percent of which was British.

Artillery paved the way for the advance by a heavy barrage and sappers (combat engineers) dealt with the mine fields in painstaking fashion.

But it was the infantry which assaulted Axis defenses with bomb and bayonet, took them and held them against repeated armored counterattacks.

Even where local success was not achieved, the enemy was made to suffer (e. g., a British infantry battalion destroyed 37 German tanks before cutting its way out).

By November 4, 1942, the Germans stated that "compared with the ferocity with which the battle of Egypt is being fought, it is considered in Berlin military quarters that the present fighting in Stalingrad is less severe."

The weight of infantry attack and the close cooperation of artillery and air force with them had, before that date, forced the linked defenses of the Axis and gained ground for tank maneuver by advance west of the Qattara bottle-neck.

On November 2-3, 1942, British armor completed the breakthrough in a great tank battle at El Aqqāqir in which 260 Axis tanks were destroyed.

Immediately the remnants of the Axis armored forces withdrew westward, with the British in pursuit.

Rommel's second in command, General von Stumme, had been killed, General von Thoma, commander of the Afrika Korps, was captured together with 8,000 German prisoners and much matériel, while six Italian divisions were encircled in rear of the advancing British columns.

The British maintained their momentum.

Matruh surrendered on November 8, Sidi Barrani (80 miles to the west) on the 9th, Tobruk (another 130 miles to the west) on the 13th, and in another 10 days the British had taken Derna and Mekili, Benghazi and Agedabia and faced Rommel's forces in front of El Agheila.

The scale of British success was indicated by the 59,000 Axis prisoners in British hands on November 15, 1942, 34,000 of whom were Germans.

But a full victory was not yet won.

Rommel's army, depleted in numbers and equipment, was still in existence as a fighting force.

He had refused to sacrifice motorized strength in prolonged resistance after the first considerable British success.

The ground which he occupied was favorable for defense since it denied opportunity for extensive maneuver by motorized forces.

The British had extended their communications as far as was consonant with safety until such time as the coast road and desert tracks could be organized for regular supply and the ports of Tobruk and Benghazi were restored for even limited use by British vessels.

### *The Area of Conflict Extended—North Africa 1942*

The Battle of the Mediterranean entered a new phase on November 7, 1942, when President Roosevelt announced that "a powerful American force equipped with adequate weapons of modern warfare" had landed on the Atlantic and Mediterranean coasts of the French colonies of Morocco and Algeria.

The landing force had proceeded from American and British bases in a convoy of over 500 troop and supply ships, escorted by more than 350 warships. Some U. S. troops were flown 1,400 miles from Britain.

All arrived punctually at the designated landing places save one. That ship limped in late after being torpedoed.

Ten British naval vessels and five U. S. transports were lost during and after the landings.

The landing places had been selected with a view to—

1. Neutralizing Dakar as a possible base for Axis operations by blocking its communications to the North.
  2. Establishing sure bases on the Atlantic coast of Morocco from which the Mediterranean landings could be reinforced and supplied.
  3. Establishing advanced bases on the Mediterranean from which a drive eastward into Tunisia might be negotiated.
- A landing in Tunisia alone, at Bizerte or at Tunis, would have been threatened on its flank and rear by Axis troops in Tripolitania and by potential Axis landings in Algeria or Morocco.

Lieutenant General Dwight D. Eisenhower, U. S. A., was in



supreme command, with Sir Andrew Cunningham, R. N., in command of both British and American naval forces.

Landings were made at many small beaches and ports near the three main objectives of Casablanca, Oran, and Algiers.

On the Atlantic coast they covered a 200-mile front from Safi north to Port Lyautey with its valuable air field.

The operations proceeded "according to plan."

Algiers was caught in a nutcracker and sought an armistice on November 9, 1942.

On that same day the U. S. A. A. F. and the R. A. F. occupied important air fields.

The original landings on the Atlantic coast were supplemented by others at Agadir, Mogador, Mehdia, and Port Lyautey.

Oran, where the stiffest resistance was encountered, was encircled on November 9, 1942.

On the 10th Casablanca, where an American fleet dealt with the resistance of French ships and shore batteries, was occupied, and Oran captured.

Meanwhile the first Mediterranean landings were supplemented by others nearer the Tunisian frontier in the vicinity of Philippeville and Bone.

By November 11, 1942, when Admiral Darlan ordered the French to lay down their arms throughout Algeria and Morocco, the British First Army, together with American motorized detachments, was moving toward the Tunisian frontier, which was crossed at several points a week later as French forces joined the fight against the Axis.

Their objectives were the naval base at Bizerte, and Tunis, which the Axis was reinforcing, together with the east coast towns of Tunisia.

Advance elements of the Allied armies made contact with the enemy on November 18, 1942, pressed through Mateur and entered Djedeida.

The danger of Vichy's warships falling into German hands, and thereby increasing the Allies' difficulties in their North African campaign, was in large measure removed by the scuttling of three quarters of the Toulon fleet at the moment German troops entered that naval base on November 27, 1942.

The airfields and ports at Tunis and Bizerte were bombed by British and American fliers, while Italian ports and industrial centers were attacked by planes based on Britain and North Africa.

By the end of the year the Allies had consolidated their positions in the north on the general line Sedjenane, Medjez-el-Bab, Bou Arada, and made contact with the enemy farther to the south. They thereby placed the Axis rail communications in Tunisia in jeopardy.

## OBSERVATIONS ON THE LIBYAN CAMPAIGNS

The area over which the six Libyan offensives have moved extends from the sea on the north to the Libyan Sand Sea (line Marada—Gialo—Giarabub—Siwa Oasis) on the south, and from the Qattara Depression (below sea level) on the east to the narrow coastal plain near El Agheila on the west.

Within this area lie well marked terrain features.

1. A relatively narrow coastal plain through which runs the one good road.
2. An escarpment, at times precipitous, intervening between the coastal plain and the plateau which has been the field for maneuver by motorized armies.
3. The surface of this plateau varies from clay and hard packed sand to rocky ground, but movement in any region involves great wear and tear on vehicles and accents the importance of maintenance crews.
  - The rugged hills of the Jebel Achdar in northern Cyrenaica constitute the only region in which tank maneuver is impossible. Elsewhere the use of movement is limited only by the factors of time and cost.
4. Wadis (dried up stream beds) are scattered through the area.

Their depth and their precipitous sides often make them impossible to cross, although tracks and trails frequently lie within them and follow their course.

They therefore constitute obstacles to maneuver especially in the case of the Wadi El Feregh which extends eastward for over 100 miles from a point near the coast south of El Agheila on the Gulf of Sirte.
5. West of El Agheila and on the road west toward Homs

and Tripoli the coastal road is the only available means for the movement of masses.

Defensive positions on this road can only be outflanked by difficult marches over rough ground interspersed by salt marshes which, after rains, are formidable obstacles.

6. The coastal road is the only paved road in the area (two-way asphalt, except between Sidi Barrani and El Sollum). Elsewhere tracks and trails constitute the means of communication. Some of these follow old caravan routes, others are established by the frequent passage of motorized vehicles in the course of campaigns.

7. Water, essential for men and motors, is extremely scarce. It is plentiful at Bardia, Derna and Benghazi, but these ports are exceptions to the rule of scarcity. A guide book gives the meaning of the Arabic word "Bir" as "well (usually dry)." Such conditions place a heavy premium on the endurance of men and on supply.

The strategy and tactics of the campaigns have frequently been compared to those of naval warfare because

1. The fighting forces cannot subsist upon the resources of the area of war.
2. The movement of motorized forces in the desert depends upon their possession of bases without which movement is impossible.
3. The prime objective is always the destruction of the enemy's forces.

The areas involved in the campaigns have been extended farther and farther into the desert, beyond the scene of the first clashes.

Similarly the British use of the Long Range Desert Patrol and of "Jock" and commando raids have involved great distances as well as rapid movement.

As the combat area has been extended and as armies progress from their original points of assault in the course of an offensive great strains are produced.

1. Immense burdens are placed on services of supply.
2. Since each supply column and base must be fully protected against sudden attack by land and from the air an offensive cannot prosper unless ample matériel and manpower are available to afford such protection.



The farther an offensive progresses the greater such demands become.

Accordingly it is evident that an offensive cannot succeed unless it is supported and maintained by forces greatly superior, at the decisive point, to those of its opponent.

Since desert warfare can be described as a paradise for the tactician, a heavy premium is placed upon thorough reconnaissance by air and on the ground.

The value of such reconnaissance patrols has been as evident in the war of movement as in assaults on prepared positions. Since the movement of motorized forces is rapid and capable of sudden change in direction, reconnaissance, to be effective, must be constant.

The relationship of defense to attack and the change from one to the other has been frequently demonstrated.

Attack and its exploitation have been the prerequisites to final success, but it is also true that the most conspicuous successes in desert wars have had their foundation in a judicious defensive.

Tanks have been stopped by the use of proper defensive weapons and measures.

Antitank defenses, including antitank guns of all calibres, have at times been overcome by the concentrated fire of motorized artillery.

Infantry has, without armored support, not merely held, but advanced and occupied heavily defended ground.

## Section E

### *Campaigns in the U. S. S. R. 1941-1942*

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On June 22, 1941, the Nazi armies went into action against the U. S. S. R. on Germany's Eastern Front.

German troops began their attack at dawn.

For once Hitler made a declaration of war—half an hour after the first exchange of shots.

This action broke the Soviet-German Non-Aggression Treaty of August 21, 1939, and marked the end of that Soviet-German amity which had prevailed since the treaties of 1922-1926.

In spite of Hitler's repeated denunciations of the Soviets he had himself continued some of the arrangements then made.

Under them the U. S. S. R. had gained German capital and machinery, while Germany had sent Reichswehr officers to the U. S. S. R., both before and after Hitler became Fuehrer, for training in the use of weapons which were forbidden to Germany under the Treaty of Versailles (planes, tanks, and heavy artillery in particular).

The immediate causes for Hitler's action are not sufficiently well established to allow for their complete analysis.

Nevertheless, here, as always, his purpose of achieving world dominion was the great underlying motive.

Here, as always, Hitler was seeking his end in opportunistic fashion.

Similarly the exact nature of the Soviets' attitude towards Germany since their Pact of 1939 is not completely clarified.

But facts in the period prior to the Nazi attack suggest the direction in which the wind was blowing on either side of the frontier between Germany and the Soviet Union.

1. Hitler had established himself in advantageous positions in the East.

He had established a protectorate over Slovakia in 1939.

His conquest of Poland gave him military advantages against the U. S. S. R.

His conquest of Norway in 1940 gave him bases useful for operations against the northern ports of the U.S. S. R. He had prevailed upon Hungary, Rumania, and Bulgaria to sign the Pact of Berlin (Axis Alliance) in the period 1940-1941.

German armies were soon well established within their territories.

With the exception of Bulgaria, their own armies were at Hitler's disposal.

Axis forces, chiefly German, had overrun Yugoslavia and Greece in April-May 1941.

The signing of a Non-Aggression Pact by Germany and Turkey on June 18, 1941, improved Hitler's position in the Middle East.

A Treaty between Britain and Turkey had been in existence since October 19, 1939, under which Turkey promised aid in "the event of a war of aggression by a European Power leading to war in the Mediterranean area in which... the United Kingdom was involved."

But when Italy attacked Greece on October 28, 1940, Turkey, while reaffirming her alliance with Britain, offered aid "short of war."

It was now clear that she would not act in support of Britain, but only if she were herself attacked.

2. On the other hand the U. S. S. R. had improved her military and diplomatic position since 1939 with apparently defensive purpose.

She had seized the eastern portion of Poland in 1939.

This was essentially the region which Poland had taken from the Soviet Union after the peace treaties of 1919.

In 1939-1940 she had established herself in the Baltic States (Estonia, Lithuania, Latvia) which had been under Soviet control before World War I.

By war on Finland in 1939-1940 she had improved the defensive position of Leningrad by moving the frontier of the U. S. S. R. to the north and west.

In 1940 she forced Rumania to give back Bessarabia.

On April 13, 1941, she signed a five year Non-Aggression Pact with Japan.

If this was observed by Japan it would safeguard the Soviet



Union from the menace of a war with Axis powers on two fronts.

The above facts suggest preparations for eventual action on the part of both Germany and the U. S. S. R.

Further facts suggest even more clearly that the Soviet Union did not see eye to eye with Germany as Hitler extended his power to the east.

When Hungary signed the Pact of Berlin (November 20, 1940) the U. S. S. R. denied that she had approved the action.

When German troops moved into Bulgaria (March 1941) the U. S. S. R. told Bulgaria that the action amounted to an "extension of the war" into the Balkans, and that she could not give the Bulgarian government any support.

When the Nazi attack on Yugoslavia impended, the Soviet Union made a Treaty of Non-Aggression with Yugoslavia (April 5, 1941).

When Hungary joined in the attack on Yugoslavia (April 12, 1941), the U. S. S. R. rebuked her severely.

Clearly, at the very time when the attitude of the United States toward the Soviet Union was still antagonistic and suspicious, a tension was growing between Germany and the U. S. S. R. which, if continued, would soon reach the breaking point.

The break might come at an inconvenient moment for Germany and cause her to face war on two fronts, east and west.

From Hitler's point of view it may have seemed preferable to eliminate the possibility of a war with the U. S. S. R. coming after Britain had recovered, by striking while Britain was still unable to move offensively.

Hitler may have assumed that he might further hoodwink the democracies by striking at the U. S. S. R., a state which some in the democracies rated as great a menace as Nazi Germany, or, in some cases, as even greater.

He may even have gone so far as to cherish the idea that, having disposed of the U. S. S. R., he could "march on London through Moscow."

Moreover, while his reserve stocks of oil had sufficed for his early campaigns, frequent reports of repeated demands upon the Soviet Union for this essential material of modern motorized warfare, suggest strongly that Hitler rated his remaining stocks as insufficient for future purposes. A modern army

marches, not on its belly, but on oil.

All together the circumstances surrounding the German attack of June 22, 1941, are confusing and conjectural.

### *Germany's Material Objectives*

However, the objectives, other than military, which Hitler sought to attain are crystal clear.

There was the wheat of the Ukraine.

There were the mines (coal and iron), and the industries in the region of the Dnieper and Don Rivers.

There was the oil of the Caucasus and the Caspian.

There was a vast potential supply of "slave" labor for the "Master Race" in the shape of the Soviet Union's 170,000,000 inhabitants.

To attain these objectives Hitler must break through Soviet defenses, seize critical points, and, above all, destroy the Red Armies in the field.

### *The Campaign June-September 1941*

In the months just preceding hostilities Russians and Germans alike had effected heavy concentrations along the frontiers—the Russians with defensive; the Germans, as previously, with offensive purpose.

Topography and communications determined the main lines of the German attacks.

Because of their key positions in respect to communications by road, by rail, and by air the great military objectives were:  
Leningrad.

Moscow.

Kiev.

Von Leeb advanced along Baltic roads against Leningrad while Finnish armies under General Mannerheim moved against that city from the west and north.

Von Bock commanded the army of the center which was launched against Moscow, skirting the northern edge of the Pripet Marshes.

Grand scale double infiltration enveloped large Red Army forces (in advance of their main defense lines) near Bialystock and again near Minsk.

The attack developed on a front of more than 100 miles, von Bock selecting suitable ground for panzer movements.

The operation was costly to both the Russians and to the Germans, but the latter appear to have attained their immediate objectives.

Von Bock plunged ahead on the road leading to Moscow through Smolensk and Vyasma.

Von Rundstedt moved against Kiev.

His operations were delayed by a lack of good roads in the direction of his advance as well as by difficult terrain.

But he was able to cut to the south and east of Kiev, and to effect the partial disintegration of Budenny's armies.

Von Bock moved from the north and made contact with von Rundstedt east of Kiev.

The city was encircled by mid-September, although its garrison continued fighting.

This action, coupled with the occupation of Smolensk by von Bock, cut the main rail lines of U. S. S. R. running north and south behind their original front.

Of itself it involved the loss to the U. S. S. R. of a valuable industrial area, and gave the invaders the key to the Ukraine.

The extreme flanks of the long Russian line were also attacked.

In the north von Falkenhorst sought in vain to cut the railroad from Moscow and Leningrad to Murmansk by attack through Finland, and threatened to interrupt the flow of supplies through that ice free port.

In the south Rumanian forces which had penetrated Bessarabia put Odessa under siege.

By the end of September 1941

Von Leeb had joined Mannerheim's Finnish forces and had closely besieged Leningrad.

Hitler claimed that the city would be captured within thirty days, but Voroshilov had conserved his strength by falling back rapidly to his main base.

Von Bock had taken Smolensk and widened his threat to Moscow by occupying Gomel to the south of the capital.

Von Rundstedt had occupied Kiev, crossed the Dnieper from that point to the Black Sea, isolated Kharkov on the Don, and pressed eastward to cut off the Crimea.

To impede his advance the Russians dynamited the great dam and hydroelectric works at Dnieperstroy.



At the extreme south of the front, the siege of Odessa, major Soviet naval base on the Black Sea, was intensified.

### *The Campaign October-November 1941*

The German thrusts continued in October and November.

Leningrad was invested, and heavily attacked in October, the Germans claiming that the fall of the city was imminent.

In the center the German drive on Moscow continued from the north and from the south.

Orel and Bryansk (on the south) were taken by October 12.

Kalinin, a junction on the railroad from Moscow to Leningrad, was captured.

By mid-November German advance units had reached points less than 35 m. from the Soviet capital on the north, although they were not present in strength.

On the south

Odessa was taken (October 16).

Kharkov was occupied (October 24) and the industrial areas of the Donetz basin were lost to the Russians.

The Perekop Isthmus (leading to the Crimea) was forced and Sevastopol was subjected to siege (November 15), while Kerch (in the eastern Crimea) was occupied by the Germans.

By November 22 Mariupol (on the Sea of Azov) had been taken and, in a further push to the east, parts of Rostov had fallen into German hands.

On October 2, 1941, Hitler issued an Order of the Day to his troops on the Eastern Front.

He boasted of Germany's occupation of territory twice the size of the Germany of 1933.

He told of German penetration of enemy territory to a depth of about 600 miles.

He declared: "Today begins the last decisive battle of this year. It will hit the enemy destructively... and with them the instigator of the entire war, England herself. For if we crush this opponent (U. S. S. R.), we also remove the last English ally on the Continent.

On October 3, 1941, Hitler told the German people and the world that "This enemy is already broken and will never rise again."

The positions held by the German armies in mid-November

1941, and their current rate of advance suggested that Hitler's prophecies were correct.

Actually the German front was already overextended, but it was to be extended farther before the end of the month.

It is possible, but not certain, that these advances were undertaken to induce Japan to make an immediate entry into the war.

1. They constituted a further display of German vigor, and if additional victories were won Japan might be convinced that the moment was most opportune for action on her part.
2. The German attack might force the U. S. S. R. to bring up reserves from Siberia and thereby encourage Germany's partner to believe that she was immune from attack upon her own shores or upon Manchukuo.

It is also possible that the renewed German attacks were in part designed to cover the German withdrawal to winter positions.

### *The Soviet Counter Offensive in the Winter of 1941-42*

Whatever the causes, the German assaults were launched and reached new high water marks at Moscow, in the center, and at Rostov in the south.

The latter town was partially occupied on November 22, 1941, in consequence of a frontal attack on the city.

But in the offensive operation which led to this result the Germans failed properly to cover their left flank, and gave the Russians an opening for the first strategically successful counter offensive since September 1939.

Timoshenko had been transferred from Moscow to the command of Red armies in the south and had there received Siberian reinforcements.

He struck hard at von Rundstedt's exposed flank, and re-occupied Rostov on November 29, 1941.

On December 8 (one day after the Japanese had committed themselves to war) Hitler announced that his forces were withdrawing westward to predetermined defensive lines.

The Red armies followed the German retirement closely in the face of stubborn resistance at critical points.

They pressed their attacks so closely as to cause the enemy to lose heavily in material and only less heavily in men.

In addition, the winter of 1941-1942, which had set in 2 weeks earlier than usual (about October 15), proved the most severe in 150 years.

These facts in combination were to wring two confessions from Hitler.

1. He had to admit that the German Staff had formed a false estimate of the situation.

"We had no idea how gigantic the preparations of this enemy were..."

2. He had to admit that German preparations had been faulty.  
"...neither the German soldier, the German tank nor the German locomotive was prepared for the sudden onslaught of cold."

He went on to say "On the maintenance of our supplies depended the existence or nonexistence of our armies."

He might have added that his generals had depended for transport upon wheeled vehicles which bogged down, instead of upon half tracks.

Red Army counter offensives on varying scales continued throughout the winter.

Those delivered on the Moscow front restored some of the disrupted lines of communication and removed the German threat to the capital.

In the north, Leningrad was by degrees freed from isolation and some supplies were carried in over the frozen Neva, and (in April) by restored rail service.

At the southern extremity of the line the Red Army advanced from Rostov to Taganrog, but the territory retained by the Germans here and farther north left the Russians with but one north and south railway west of the Urals.

The greatest battle of this period developed around the Red Army's attempt to recapture Kharkov. This, after an early limited tactical success, was thwarted by a large scale German counteroffensive.

Altogether about one-fifth of the territory overrun was recovered.

### *Sources of Soviet Strength*

Quite as important as the territorial gains registered was the fact that the Russians had taken up the offensive after months of bitter defensive actions.

In spite of the losses and disorganization produced by such a campaign the skill of the Red Army Staff enabled them to retain control of the forces at their disposal and to negotiate



successfully the difficult transition from defense to offense.

In spite of fearful loss of matériel Soviet organization had been so developed as to provide the supplies without which their Staff could not have mounted their winter offensive.

Notable was the extraordinary efficiency of the Soviet salvage corps which moved onto the battlefield immediately behind the attacking infantry. Reclaimable material was sent to the rear even before the Red Army buried its dead.

Some aid, in the shape of matériel, was sent over dangerous convoy routes to the U. S. S. R. by Britain and the United States in at least partial fulfillment of earlier promises.

Churchill had declared on June 22, 1941, that "Any man or State who fights against Nazism will have our aid. Any man or State who marches with Hitler is our foe."

This general statement was elaborated in the agreement of July 12, 1941, between Britain and the U. S. S. R. which promised mutual support during the war and declared that they would "neither negotiate nor conclude an armistice or treaty of peace without mutual consent."

On June 23, 1941, Sumner Welles (American Acting Secretary of State) stated "In the opinion of this government . . . Any defense against Hitlerism, any rallying of the forces opposing Hitlerism, from whatever source these forces may spring, will hasten the eventual downfall of the present German leaders, and will therefore redound to the benefit of our own defense and security."

Later (August 2, 1941) Mr. Welles informed Mr. Oumansky (Soviet ambassador to the United States) that "the Government of the United States had decided to give all economic assistance practicable for the purpose of strengthening the Soviet Union in its struggle against armed aggression. Hitler's armies are today the chief dangers of the Americas."

In keeping with these statements various arrangements were made beginning in October 1941, and culminating in the Lend-Lease Agreement of June 11, 1942, under which the United States provided loans and materials to the U. S. S. R.

In the final analysis it was the resolute will of the Russian people that made possible their winter offensive.

The Russian people made the war their war.

They burned and otherwise destroyed their property, as the Germans advanced, in strict obedience to Stalin's "scorched earth" orders.

They fought as guerrillas behind the German lines.

Men, women, and children toiled in defense works, on lines of communications, and in factories, providing essential materials.

They fought in the front lines alongside the troops.

They were determined to free their land from the yoke of the invader.

Hitler had not reckoned on the indivisibility of the Russian population and the defense of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

### *Germany Resumes the Offensive in the South 1942*

The Red Army's winter offensive did not prevent the Germans from regaining the initiative on one important sector of the fighting front in 1942.

It should be observed, however, that the offensive against Leningrad and the Caucasus differed radically from that of the preceding year.

In 1941 the Germans attacked all along the frontiers in full vigor, seeking the annihilation of the Red Army.

In 1942 the Germans sought a comparatively limited objective—the exhaustion of Soviet oil supplies and of the means for their distribution.

This limitation of objective was a confession that the plan of campaign in 1941 had failed, and that it had been incorrectly conceived.

The German objective, although limited, was significant.

Oil was vital to the motorized armies of the U. S. S. R. Occupation of the rich fields of the Caucasus and Caspian would constitute a body blow.

Transport was equally vital.

Before the war 60 percent of the oil from these fields had been distributed by pipe line and by ships on the Black Sea, and 40 percent by railways.

The loss of Odessa and the isolation of Sevastopol had crippled sea transport on the Black Sea.

A German penetration eastward would cripple remaining rail and pipe line transport.

Sevastopol was taken by July 2, 1942, and, freed from its menace to their flank, the German forces moved eastward near the coast.

Rostov (terminus of the pipe line) again fell into their hands and another Soviet (secondary) naval base (Novorossisk) was taken in early September. Marshal Timoshenko's army did not attempt to stand at Rostov, but fell back rapidly toward Stalingrad to the east and the Caucasus range to the south, a strategy sternly criticized in the U. S. S. R. at the time, but vindicated by the ultimate issue of the campaign.

The Maikop oil fields and another pipe line were lost to the U. S. S. R. as the enemy moved on to the northern slopes of the Caucasus, and threatened the oil fields at Grozny.

Further north an eastward drive was begun early in July 1942, which carried the Germans beyond the lines which they held in late November 1941.

They crossed the Don west of Stalingrad and pressed forward against that vital center of communications and of industry on the Volga.

On September 13, 1942, they claimed to have entered the city, and the long siege began in whose course the Russians again exhibited all their military qualities, and proved that in a modern fortress-city tanks can be stopped.

The days appeared dark.

Complaints were voiced in the U. S. S. R. that the "British and American armies were mere bystanders," which were echoed elsewhere in the demand for a "Second Front."

In October Stalin criticized the extent of allied aid, asked that "The Allies fulfill their obligations fully and on time," and declared that a "Second Front" was "of first rate importance to the U. S. S. R."

By the end of November 1942, however, there were indications that these outcries may well have been part of the grand strategy of the most extensive propaganda campaign the world has ever seen.

On November 7, 1942, United States and British forces opened a second front in Africa.

On November 19, 1942, the Red Army unleashed offensives



across the Don northwest of Stalingrad and from positions south of that city.

These actions forced the Axis to engage in "heavy defensive battles" and resulted in the encirclement of 22 enemy divisions west of Stalingrad by November 23, 1942.

At about the same time Churchill disclosed that plans for both the North African and the Stalingrad operations had been discussed during his conferences with Stalin in mid-August.

On November 25, 1942, the Red Army went over to the offensive on the central front in the vicinity of Velikie Luki and Rzhev where penetrations of the Axis lines were effected in stubborn fighting.

About December 16, 1942, a further Soviet offensive was begun in the middle course of the Don which closed in around Millerovo (on the railroad between Moscow and Rostov) a week later.

### OBSERVATIONS

The following are some of the notable military developments which should be observed in the long "Battle of Russia."

1. For the first time German armies attacked an enemy whose defensive lines were at a great distance from the decisive objects of the German attack.
2. A "buffer area" received and distributed the shock of the German assault.

This was particularly true in the gaps between great natural obstacles, in which areas alone were true Blitzkrieg operations possible.

Field works, antiaircraft, and antitank defenses, organized defenses within forest areas and fortress cities (Leningrad, Smolensk, Moscow, Odessa) prevented any break through on the Soviet front comparable to that made by the Germans at Sedan in 1940.

3. The Russian areas were so vast that all the Red Army forces attacked could not be fixed in their positions by the German assault.

The direct lines of Soviet retreat might be blocked, but lateral maneuver was still possible, and many troops escaped the German traps.

Battles of annihilation were, therefore, impossible, and iso-

lated Red Army troops, reinforced by guerillas, harassed the German rear areas.

Such action reduced German mobility, because mobility can only be developed from a protected base.

4. Hitler boasted at the time that some German divisions had marched 1,200 to 1,800 miles between June and October.

Later he was to acknowledge the heavy toll which such constant movement took of machines and of men's energies.

5. Modern cities proved the nemesis of the tank.

Their bombed ruins afforded cover to the defenders and presented major obstacles to panzer assault.

Rifle and mortar, grenade and bayonet came into their own.

6. To mount a prolonged offensive by motorized troops great masses of supplies are necessary.

Supply vehicles serving the attack to which the Germans were committed blocked the roads of the forward areas and prevented the arrival of others.

Without replenishment of supplies and relief for the men first engaged, the offensive must, perforce, wear itself out.

7. Hitler thought that a decisive victory could be won in a maximum of five to six months.

During the Autumn of 1941 the total facilities of supply were employed to move fighting materials forward.

When the time limit originally fixed expired without a victory, the Germans were forced to devote their entire services of supply to the provision of winter necessities—housing heavy clothing, fuel, etc. Partly on that account they had to cease offensive operations.

8. In spite of their great strength concentrated against the U. S. S. R., the Germans' margin of ascendancy in tanks and planes was less than in their previous campaigns.

9. Moreover, granting that no Staff can foresee and provide for every campaign eventuality, the German Staff did not foresee such conditions as they encountered at Leningrad.

The novel conditions of city defense demanded the use of siege trains which had not been sufficiently foreseen by the German Army whose strategists had calculated that high velocity warfare would eliminate siege warfare, and con-

sequently shorted their forces of siege artillery.

10. Blitzkrieg demands a continuous, unlimited offensive which strikes, and, if repulsed at any point, strikes again elsewhere. The U. S. S. R.'s distances made such procedure difficult. When the Germans concentrated their forces to reduce Kiev, Smolensk, and Odessa, that very concentration reduced their freedom to engage in maneuver which is the essence of motorized warfare.
11. Finally, the Germans followed a plan for whose execution their panzer strength was insufficient. They "bit off more than they could chew," and by November 1941 their lines had been extended beyond safe limits.



## Section F

### *Chronology—The Immediate Background of the War*

YEAR	NAZI GERMANY	FASCIST ITALY	JAPAN
1921	.....	.....	Washington treaties.
1922	.....	Mussolini Dicta- tor.	
1927	Pact of Paris.....	Pact of Paris.....	Tanaka Memo- rial.
1931	.....	.....	Pact of Paris Mukden Incident (September) Manchukuo.
1933	Hitler Chancellor (January).	.....	Jehol (January- May).
1934	Attempt on Austria (July).		
1935	Rearmament (March- June).	Abyssinian War (October).	
1936	Rhineland (March).... Anti-Comintern Pact (Oct.-Nov.) Intervention in Spain.. Four-Year Plan.	Rome-Berlin Axis (Oct.)  Intervention in Spain.	Anti-Comintern Pact (Nov.)
1937	.....	..... Anti-Comintern Pact (Nov.)	Peking (July). Shanghai (Aug.) Nanking (Dec.) Action accord- ing
1938	Anschluss (March).... Munich (September). Sudetenland (Oct.)	.....	to
1939	Czechoslovakia (March).	Albania (April).	plan.

### *Chronology 1931-1941*

YEAR	MAJOR AXIS ACTIONS	UNITED STATES REACTIONS
1931	"Mukden Incident" (Sept. 18).	
1932	.....	"Stimson Doctrine" (refusal to recognize territorial

*Chronology 1931-1941*

YEAR	MAJOR AXIS ACTIONS	UNITED STATES REACTIONS
1933	.....	changes resulting from aggression) (Jan. 9). "Good Neighbor Policy" given its name and further developed (Mar. 4).
1934	Germany tries to seize Austria (July 25) Japan denounces Washington Treaty of 1921 (free to build warships without limit after 1936) (Dec. 29.)	Act for Philippine Independence (Mar. 24).
1935	Germany rearms (Mar. 10). Italy attacks Ethiopia (Oct. 3).	Neutrality Act (Export of munitions banned) (Aug. 31).
1936	Germany occupies Rhineland (March 7). Germany's "4-Year Plan" (October 19). Rome-Berlin Axis (Oct. 24). Anti-Comintern Pact between Germany and Japan (Nov. 25). Axis Intervention in Spain (October).	Neutrality Act (No purchase of belligerents' bonds) (Feb. 29). President Roosevelt's "Quarantine Speech" (Oct. 5).
1937	Japan seizes Shanghai (August-November). Italy signs Anti-Comintern Pact (Nov. 6). "Panay" sunk (Dec. 12).	Neutrality Act (cash and carry) (May 1).
1938	Germany seizes Austria (Mar. 12).	President seeks to avoid crisis by appeal to Hitler and Mussolini (Sept. 26-27).
1938	Germany provokes Sudeten Crisis (March ). Munich Conference (Sept. 29). Japanese invades Kwantung (Oct. 21).	President Roosevelt attends Lima Conference of American Republics (Dec. 10). President Roosevelt appeals to Hitler and Mussolini to promise non-aggression (Apr. 14).
1939	Japan seizes Hainan Island (Feb. 10). Japan seizes Spratley Island (Mar. 31). Germany seizes Czechoslovakia (Mar. 14).	Trade Treaty (1911) de-

*Chronology 1931-1941*

YEAR	MAJOR AXIS ACTIONS	UNITED STATES REACTIONS
	Italy seizes Albania (Apr. 7). Italo-German military alliance (May 22). German-Soviet Pact (Aug. 21). Germany attacks Poland (Sept. 1).	nounced (U. S. free to cut off exports to Japan after Jan. 1, 1940) (July 2). President Roosevelt appeals to Victor Emmanuel and Hitler. (Aug. 23-24, 1939). Declaration of Panama (American Republics) for neutrality zone (Oct. 2). Neutrality Act (combat zones, etc.) (Nov. 4).
1940	Germany attacks Denmark and Norway (Apr. 9). Germany attacks Low Countries and France (May 10). "Battle of Britain" (August 8). First Axis Libyan offensive (Graziani) (Sept. 13-16). Pact of Berlin-Axis Alliance (Sept. 27). Italy attacks Greece (Oct. 28). First British Libyan Offensive (Wavell) (Dec. 9, 1940-Feb. 8, 1941).	Congressional resolution against transfer of territory in Western Hemisphere from one European power to another (June 17). Two ocean navy (July 19). National Guard mustered into Federal service (Aug. 27).
1941	Second Axis Libyan Offensive (Rommel) (Mar. 24-Apr. 18). Germany attacks Greece and Yugoslavia (Apr. 6). Soviet-Japanese Non-Aggression Pact (Apr. 13). Peak sinkings in Battle of the Atlantic (June). Germany attacks U. S. S. R. (June 22). Japan occupies Indo-China by arrangement with Vichy (July). Second British Libyan Offensive (Auchinleck) (Nov. 18, 1941-Jan. 7, 1942). Red Army reoccupies Rostov (Nov. 29).	Exchange of destroyers for bases (Sept. 2). Selective Service Act (Sept. 16). O. P. M. (Knudsen) (Dec. 20). "Lend-Lease" Act (Arsenal of Democracy) (Mar. 11). U. S. Forces sent to Greenland (Apr. 9) and to Iceland (July 7). Unlimited National Emergency (May 27). U. S. Army Forces of the Far East organized under MacArthur (July 26). Extension of service period of National Guard and selectees (Aug. 14). Atlantic Charter (Aug. 14). Shoot on sight order to Navy (Sept. 11). Cash and carry, combat zone features of neutrality acts (1937 and 1939) revoked (Nov. 17).



## *Chronology—November 1941— December 1942*

November  
1941

- 17—Bill signed permitting arming of American ships and their entry into all combat zones.
- 18—Second British Libyan Offensive (Auchinleck); continued to January 7, 1942.
- 22—Germans enter Rostov.
- 24—U. S. occupation of Dutch Guiana announced.
- 25—Anti-Comintern Pact (Germany-Italy-Japan) renewed. (First signed November 25, 1936.)
- 26—U. S. note to Japan indicates terms on which agreement on Pacific questions would be possible.
- 29—Red Army reoccupies Rostov and begins its winter counter-offensive.

December

- 6—President Roosevelt's letter to Emperor Hirohito.
- 7—Japanese attack Pearl Harbor (1:25 p.m., E. S. T.), and other points in the Pacific.
- 7—Japan declares war (4:00 p.m., E. S. T.).
- 8—U. S. Declaration of War against Japan. Britain and other United Nations do the same.
- 8—Japan invades Thailand.
- 10—H. M. S. *Prince of Wales* and H. M. S. *Repulse* sunk off Malaya.
- 11—Germany and Italy declare war on U. S.
- 11—U. S. declares war on Germany and Italy.
- 13—Guam captured by Japanese.
- 22—Prime Minister Churchill in Washington.
- 24—Wake Island captured by the Japanese.
- 25—Hong Kong surrendered to the Japanese.

January  
1942

- 1—26 United Nations at war with Axis powers endorse the Atlantic Charter (August 14, 1941) and promise to make no separate armistice or peace.
- 2—Manila captured by the Japanese.
- 3—General Wavell appointed commander of United

January  
1942

- Nations forces in Southwest Pacific and Generalissimo Chiang K'ai-shek in Chinese Theater.
- 17—Permanent U. S.-British War Council announced.
- 21—Rommel advances against El Agheila in Libya. British withdraw to El Gazala.
- 24—Battle of Macassar Straits. Night action vs. Japanese convoy by destroyers of U. S. Asiatic Fleet.
- 26—A. E. F. lands in Northern Ireland.
- 31—Raid on Marshall and Gilbert Islands by U. S. Naval Task Force.

February

- 6—U. S. British Combined Chiefs of Staff group formed in Washington "to insure complete coordination of the war effort . . ."
- 9—Pacific Council formed in London (Britain, Australia, Netherlands and New Zealand) to cooperate with the Combined Chiefs of Staff in Washington.
- 16—Aruba oil installations shelled by Axis submarine.
- 23—Santa Barbara, Calif., oil installations shelled by Axis submarine.
- 24—Wake Island raided by U. S. Naval Task Force.
- 24—U. S. and Britain sign Declaration of Intentions at Washington.
- 27—Battle of the Java Sea (to March 1).  
13 United Nations warships sunk, 1 damaged, 2 Japanese warships sunk; 5 damaged.

March

- 4—Marcus Island raided by U. S. Naval Task Force.
- 10—Rangoon occupied by the Japanese.
- 17—General MacArthur assumes command of United Nations forces in Australia and Southwest Pacific.

April

- 9—Bataan captured by the Japanese.
- 18—Tokyo bombed by U. S. A. A. F.
- 19—General MacArthur placed in command in Southwest Pacific.
- 25—U. S. Occupation of French New Caledonia announced.

May  
1942

- 4-8—Naval Battle of the Coral Sea. U. S. S. *Lexington* and two destroyers lost: 15 Japanese warships sunk.
- 6—Corregidor surrenders to the Japanese after 27-day battle.
- 22—President Roosevelt warns of a long war.
- 26—Third Axis Libyan Offensive (Rommel) (Continued to July 1, 1942).
- 26—Anglo-Soviet Treaty, binding for 20 years, defines joint actions by signers in the post-war period, and reaffirms wartime alliance of June 12, 1941.
- 29—Foreign Minister Molotov in Washington.

June

- 3—Dutch Harbor, Alaska, bombed by Japanese. Landings in Aleutians (Attu, Agattu, and Kiska) follow.
- 4-6—Naval Battle of Midway: 10 Japanese warships sunk and 10 damaged; U. S. S. *Yorktown* sunk.
- 11—U. S. Lend Lease Agreement with U. S. S. R.
- 18—Prime Minister Churchill in Washington.
- 27—Saboteurs landed on Long Island and Florida coasts. seized by the F. B. I. (Executed August 8).
- 30—Registration of men between 18 and 20 for Selective Service.

July

- 2—Sevastopol taken by the Germans.
- 4—U. S. bombers make their first American raid on Western Europe.
- 21—Admiral Leahy assigned as President Roosevelt's Chief of Staff.
- 31—Nine United Nations ask Secretary Hull to issue a "last warning" to the Axis to stop their "barbaric and inhuman crimes" committed in occupied countries.

August

- 7—U. S. forces land at Guadalcanal and Tulagi.
- 8-9—Naval Battle of Savo Island. U. S. cruisers *Astoria*, *Quincy*, and *Vincennes* and Australian cruiser *Canberra* sunk (night surface action).
- 17—Makin Island seaplane base raided by U. S. Naval Task Force.



## THE WAR IN OUTLINE

August  
1942

- 18—A contingent of U. S. Rangers participate in Commando raid on Dieppe.
- 22—Brazil declares war on Germany and Italy.
- 23-25—Japanese attack turned back in large scale sea battle of the Eastern Solomons (Air vs. surface units).

September

- 13—Stalingrad entered by the Germans.
- 15—U. S. S. *Wasp* and a destroyer sunk in the Solomons area.
- 23—Wendell Willkie confers with Premier Stalin in Moscow.

October

- 11-12—Naval battle of Cape Esperance. Eight Japanese ships, four cruisers and four destroyers, sunk in 30-minute action, U. S. S. *Boise* playing distinguished role (night surface action). U. S. losses one destroyer sunk, two cruisers damaged.
- 23—Third British Libyan Offensive (Alexander, Montgomery).
- 24—Admiral William F. Halsey, Jr., appointed to Southwest Pacific command.
- 25-26—Naval battle of the Santa Cruz Islands. Japanese attack on Guadalcanal turned back. U. S. aircraft carrier *Hornet* sunk. Japanese losses one battleship, three carriers, five cruisers damaged (air and surface units).

November

- 6—Madagascar authorities (Vichy) conclude armistice with British.
- 7—U. S. and British forces land at many points in French North Africa.
- 8—U. S. airborne troops land near Buna (New Guinea).
- 9—U. S. and Vichy sever relations.
- 11—German and Italian troops move into hitherto unoccupied France, except Toulon.
- 13-15—Naval battle of Guadalcanal. Japanese losses 2 battleships, 8 cruisers, 6 destroyers, 8 transports, 4 cargo ships sunk; 2 battleships, 1 cruiser, 7 destroyers damaged. U. S. losses 2 cruisers, 7 destroyers sunk (air and surface actions).

November  
1942

- 13—Admiral Darlan assumes "responsibility for French interests in Africa."
- 13—Selective Service Act amended to include ages 18-20.
- 13—British Libyan offensive reaches Tobruk, after advance of 320 miles in 23 days.
- 19—Red Army opens offensives from northwest and from south of Stalingrad.
- 23—British Libyan offensive reaches Agedabia.
- 25—Red Army opens an offensive on Velikie Luki-Rzhev front.
- 27—French scuttle the major part of their fleet at Toulon.
- 28—Reunion Islands occupied by Allies.
- 29—Prime Minister Churchill warns Italy to oust Il Duce.
- 30-Dec. 1—Naval battle of Lunga Point. Japanese losses 6 destroyers, 2 troop transports, 1 cargo ship sunk. U. S. losses 1 cruiser sunk, other vessels damaged (night surface action).

December

- 1—British Libyan offensive reaches El Agheila.
- 3—Japanese forces attempting to land reinforcements at Guadalcanal hit by U. S. dive bombers.
- 3—U. S. pact with Liberia for use of air fields announced. (Some U. S. troops had been in that area since June 17.)
- 4—Naples raided for the first time by U. S. A. A. F. from Africa. Again raided by daylight December 11.
- 7—U. S. gives casualty figures in first year of war as 58,307.
- 8—Dakar opened for the use of the Allies.
- 8-10—Turin heavily bombed by the R. A. F.
- 11—Gona (New Guinea) occupied by United Nations forces.
- 12—New Japanese air base at Munda (New Georgia) bombed.
- 12—Loss of U. S. Transport *President Coolidge* in southwest Pacific announced.
- 14—British occupy El Agheila in renewed Libyan offensive.
- 14—Madagascar administration turned over to the Fighting French.
- 15—Buna village (New Guinea) occupied by United Nations forces.

December  
1942

- 16—Red Army begins an offensive in the area of the middle course of the Don River.
- 18—Axis forces evacuate El Nofilia in Libya.
- 19—British announce movement of their forces across the northern frontier of Burma in the direction of Akyab.
- 20—Calcutta raided by Japanese planes.
- 24—U. S. A. A. F. bombers raid Wake Island.
- 24—Admiral Darlan, High Commissioner for French North Africa, assassinated at Algiers.
- 25—British occupy Sirte in Libya.
- 27—General Giraud designated to succeed Admiral Darlan as High Commissioner in French North Africa.



*Declarations or Acts Constituting Recognition  
of a State of War by Adversaries of the Axis Powers*

COUNTRIES	GERMANY	ITALY	JAPAN
United States.....	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
United Kingdom of Grt. Britain and N. Ireland	Sept. 3, 1939	June 11, 1940	Dec. 7, 1941
Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	June 22, 1941	June 22, 1941	.....
China.....	Dec. 9, 1941	Dec. 9, 1941	Dec. 9, 1941
Australia.....	Sept. 3, 1939	June 11, 1940	Dec. 8, 1941
Belgium.....	May 10, 1940	Dec. 20, 1941	Dec. 20, 1941
Bolivia.....	Apr. 7, 1943	Apr. 7, 1943	Apr. 7, 1943
Brazil.....	Aug. 22, 1942	Aug. 22, 1942	.....
Canada.....	Sept. 10, 1939	June 10, 1940	Dec. 7, 1941
Costa Rica.....	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
Cuba.....	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 9, 1941
Czechoslovakia.....	Dec. 16, 1941	Dec. 16, 1941	Dec. 16, 1941
Dominican Republic.....	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
El Salvador.....	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
Ethiopia.....	Dec. 1, 1942	Dec. 1, 1942	Dec. 1, 1942
Greece.....	Apr. 6, 1941	Oct. 28, 1940	.....
Guatemala.....	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
Haiti.....	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 12, 1942	Dec. 8, 1941
Honduras.....	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
India.....	Sept. 3, 1941	.....	.....
Iraq.....	Jan. 17, 1942	Jan. 17, 1942	Jan. 17, 1942
Luxembourg.....	May 10, 1941	.....	.....
Mexico.....	May 22, 1942	May 22, 1942	May 22, 1942
Netherlands.....	May 10, 1940	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
New Zealand.....	Sept. 3, 1939	June 11, 1940	Dec. 8, 1941
Nicaragua.....	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 11, 1941	Dec. 8, 1941
Norway.....	Apr. 9, 1940	.....	.....
Panama.....	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 12, 1941	Dec. 10, 1941
Philippines, Common- wealth of	(See	United	States.)
Poland.....	Sept. 1, 1939	.....	Dec. 11, 1941
South Africa, Union of..	Sept. 6, 1939	June 11, 1940	Dec. 8, 1941
Yugoslavia.....	Apr. 6, 1941	Apr. 6, 1941	Dec. 7, 1941

## *Latin-American Republics and the Axis Powers*

W=indicates declaration of a state of war.

B=indicates a breach of diplomatic relations.

\*=indicates adherence to Declaration of the United Nations.

COUNTRIES	GERMANY	ITALY	JAPAN
Argentina.....	.....	.....	.....
*Bolivia.....	B Jan. 28, 1942 W Apr. 7, 1943	B Jan. 28, 1942 W Apr. 7, 1943	B Jan. 28, 1942 W Apr. 7, 1943
*Brazil.....	B Jan. 28, 1942 W Aug. 22, 1942	B Jan. 28, 1942 W Aug. 22, 1942	B Jan. 28, 1942
Chile.....	B Jan. 20, 1943	B Jan. 20, 1943	B Jan. 20, 1943
Colombia.....	B Dec. 19, 1941	B Dec. 19, 1941	B Dec. 8, 1941
*Costa Rica.....	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
*Cuba.....	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 9, 1941
*Dominican Republic	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
Ecuador.....	B Jan. 29, 1942	B Jan. 29, 1942	B Jan. 29, 1942
*El Salvador...	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
*Guatemala.....	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
*Haiti.....	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
*Honduras.....	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
*Mexico.....	B Dec. 11, 1941 W May 22, 1942	B Dec. 11, 1941 W May 22, 1942	B Dec. 8, 1941 W May 22, 1942
*Nicaragua.....	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 11, 1941	W Dec. 8, 1941
*Panama.....	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 12, 1941	W Dec. 10, 1941
Paraguay.....	B Jan. 28, 1942	B Jan. 28, 1942	B Jan. 28, 1942
Peru.....	B Jan. 24, 1942	B Jan. 24, 1942	B Jan. 24, 1942
Uruguay.....	B Jan. 25, 1942	B Jan. 25, 1942	B Jan. 25, 1942
Venezuela.....	B Dec. 31, 1941	B Dec. 31, 1941	B Dec. 31, 1941

## Chronology—1943

*Materials for this section are derived from public sources. In listing night bombings only the first of the dates involved is given.)*

January

- 1—Velikie Luki occupied by the Red Army.  
Hitler declares that National Socialist Germany “will never contemplate capitulation.”
- 3—Mozok (Caucasus) occupied by the Red Army.
- 4—Buna Mission (New Guinea) taken by the Allies.
- 5—United States Fifth Army activated in North Africa, Lt. Gen. M. W. Clark commanding.
- 7—President Roosevelt reports 7,000,000 men in the armed forces, and 1,500,000 of them outside the continental limits of the United States.
- 8—Ultimatum delivered to German armies encircled before Stalingrad since November 23, 1942.
- 9—Maj. Gen. Carl Spaatz assumes command of the Allied Air Forces in North Africa.  
Japan reports that the “National Chinese Government” (Japanese puppet) has declared war on the United States and Great Britain.
- 10—M. T. P.’s torpedo two Japanese destroyers off Guadalcanal.
- 11—Naples bombed by U. S. planes from the Middle East Command.  
United States and Great Britain relinquish extra-territorial rights in China.
- 12—Amchitka (Aleutians) occupied by U. S. forces.
- 14—Casablanca Conference opens. President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill meet with U. S. and British army and navy commanders for 10 days. They determine that the might of Britain and the United States “will be applied to enforce unconditional surrender upon the criminals who plunged the world into the war.”
- 16—Red Army launches an offensive below Voronezh.  
Iraq declares war on the Axis and adherence to the United Nations.  
Berlin bombed by the R. A. F. for the first time since November 7, 1941. Action repeated January 17th.



January

1943

- 18—Misurata occupied by the British Eighth Army.  
U. S. S. R. announces the capture of Schluesselberg and the raising of the siege of Leningrad which began in September 1941.
- 20—Chile severs diplomatic relations with the Axis powers.  
Homs and Tarhuna occupied by the British Eighth Army.
- 21—Maj. Gen. A. M. Patch, U. S. A., takes over command of U. S. forces on Guadalcanal.
- 23—Tripoli occupied by the British Eighth Army (exactly three months after the battle of El Alamein).  
German retreat into the Mareth Line.  
Armavir (Caucasus) occupied by the Red Army.  
Kokumbona (Guadalcanal) occupied by U. S. forces.
- 24—Organized resistance at Sanananda (New Guinea) ended.
- 25—Maknassy raided by U. S. forces.  
Voronezh occupied by the Red Army.
- 27—Wilhelmshaven and Emden bombed in first raid on Germany by the U. S. A. F.
- 29—U. S. naval action near Rennell Islands (air and surface units) preceding collapse of Japanese resistance on Guadalcanal (see also February 1, 2, 4 and 7).
- 30—Tunisian border crossed by the British Eighth Army.  
U. S. S. *Chicago* sunk in Solomon Islands area.  
Maikop (Caucasus) occupied by the Red Army.  
Berlin twice bombed in daylight by the R. A. F.
- 31—Germans advance in Faïd Pass.  
Destruction of German armies before Stalingrad announced by the U. S. S. R.  
Prime Minister Churchill, with diplomatic and military leaders, confers with President Inonu of Turkey at Adana.

February

- 1—U. S. naval actions in Northern Solomons, south of Savo Island and off Cape Esperance (air and surface units).
- 2—U. S. naval action off Kolombangara Island (air and surface units).

February  
1943

- 3—Hamburg bombed by the R. A. F. for the 95th time.
- 4—U. S. naval action south of Choiseul Island (air and surface units).  
Turin, Spezia, and Lorient bombed by the R. A. F.
- 5—Mussolini re-forms his Cabinet and assumes "the entire burden for the conduct of political and military operations."
- 6—U. S. T. O. North Africa (separate from Europe) announced. Lt. Gen. F. M. Andrews appointed C. G. E. T. O.
- 7—U. S. naval action off Rendova Island (air and surface units.)
- 8—Kursk occupied by the Red Army.  
Naples bombed by the Allies.
- 9—Guadalcanal completely occupied by U. S. forces. Enemy losses said to be about 50,000.
- 11—Lt. Gen. D. D. Eisenhower, nominated as General, assumes command of the British Eighth Army as well as of other Allied forces in North Africa.  
Wilhelmshaven bombed by the R. A. F.
- 13—Naples bombed by the U. S. A. F., and Lorient by the R. A. F.
- 14—Axis breaks U. S. lines west of Faid Pass.  
U. S. forces abandon Gafsa and withdraw to the west.  
Rostov and Voroshilovgrad occupied by the Red Army.
- 15—French battleship *Richelieu*, with a cruiser and two destroyers, arrives in the U. S. from Dakar.
- 16—Kharkov occupied by the Red Army.  
Palermo bombed by the Ninth U. S. A. F.
- 18—British Eighth Army reaches Medinine and occupies Fom Tatahouine.  
Chinese report Japanese attacks in seven areas.  
U. S. Sixth Army created in the South Pacific, Lt. Gen. Walter Krueger in command.  
Mme. Chiang K'ai Shek addresses Congress.  
Air Forces in North Africa T. O. reorganized into Tactical Air Force and Strategic Air Force.
- 20—Kasserine Pass occupied by the Axis.

February  
1943

- Naples and Crotone bombed by the 9th U. S. A. F.  
U. S. casualties to date 65,380.
- 21—Axis drives against Thala and Tebessa.
- 22—Myebon (Burma) raided by British commandos.
- 24—Wilhelmshaven bombed by the R. A. F.
- 25—Kasserine Pass reoccupied by Allied forces.  
Rommel breaks contact and withdraws to old positions—  
Hadjeb el Aioum, Sidi bou Zid and Gafsa.
- 26—Northwest African Air Force created by merger of Allied  
Air Forces, Maj. Gen. Carl Spaatz given command.  
Wilhelmshaven bombed by the U. S. A. F.

March

- 1—Berlin bombed by the R. A. F.; 900 tons of bombs  
dropped in 30 minutes.  
Naples bombed by the U. S. A. F.  
Red Army advances in Lake Ilmen region.  
Sbeitla occupied by Allied troops.  
Battle of the Bismarck Sea. (Continues through March  
6th.) Japanese losses; 12 transports, 7 destroyers, 3  
cruisers, 82 planes. U. S. losses; 1 bomber, 3 fighters.
- 3—Nefta occupied by a French camel corps.  
Rzhev occupied by the Red Army.
- 4—Germans attack at Sedjenane and at the northern end  
of the Mareth Line.
- 6—Lorient and Brest bombed by the U. S. A. F. No night  
bombers over the Continent for the first time since  
February 24th.
- 7—General Giraud issues order that “a decree signed in  
Vichy is not binding in North Africa.
- 8—Germans withdraw after loss of 30 tanks near Hallouf.
- 11—Lend-Lease extension passed.
- 12—Fighting French advance toward Ksar Rhilane.  
Vyasma occupied by the Red Army.  
Essen bombed by the R. A. F. in heaviest raid to date.
- 14—Kharkov retaken by the Germans.
- 17—Gafsa taken by U. S. troops which move on El Guettar  
and occupy it March 18th.  
Secretary of the Navy Knox estimates that Japan has lost



March  
1943

- 14 percent of her pre-war cargo fleet.
- 18—Vegesack submarine yards bombed by the U. S. A. F.
- 19—Lt. Gen. H. H. Arnold A.A.F. nominated General.
- 20—Mareth Line attacked by the British Eighth Army.  
Laokay (Indo China) bombed by the Fourteenth U. S. A. F.
- 21—Hitler admits 542,000 dead in the war to date, and denounces Allied bombings of Germany.
- 22—Wilhelmshaven bombed by the U. S. A. F. and St. Nazaire by the R. A. F.
- 23—Mombare River area (New Guinea) completely occupied by the Allies in a move along the coast.  
Kiska bombed. These bombings from Adak and Amchitka continue regularly.
- 26—West of Attu U. S. light naval forces exchange long range gunfire with Japanese convoy and force its withdrawal.  
El Hamma, in the rear of the Mareth Line, attacked by the British Eighth Army, and the Axis abandons the Mareth Line.
- 28—The British Eighth Army occupies Mareth, Toujane, and Matama.
- 30—El Hamma and Gabes occupied by the British Eighth Army.
- 31—Sedjenane in the north occupied by Allied troops.  
French occupy Kebili in the south.  
Fighting French join in the attack and pursuit in rear of the Mareth Line.  
Soviet communique declares that the winter campaign to free communication lines is terminated.

April

- 1—British Eighth Army renews contact with the Germans north of Oudref.  
French occupy Kebili.  
U. S. bombings of Kiska and Attu continue with increased vigor through this month.
- 3—Second U. S. Corps attacks east of El Guettar.
- 4—U. S. bombers attack Japanese naval concentration in

April  
1943

Silver Sound (New Ireland) and sink two cruisers and a destroyer.

Cap Serrat occupied by the French.

6—British Eighth Army attacks the Wadi el Akarit position and forces Axis withdrawal to Enfidaville.

British First Army attacks in front of Medjez el Bab.

Japanese bombers with fighter escort attack Guadalcanal.

Japanese losses, 36 planes; Allied losses, 7 fighters, U. S. S. *Aaron Ward* (destroyer), U. S. S. *Kanawha* (tanker), and H. M. N. Z. S. *Moa* (corvette).

7—Second U. S. Corps and the British Eighth Army make contact.

President Roosevelt asks record sum of \$24,551,070,000 for the Navy.

Hitler and Mussolini confer at the Brenner Pass for three days.

10—French advance in the Ousseletia Plain.

Sfax occupied by the British Eighth Army.

Kairouan occupied by the Allies.

Koenigsberg bombed by Red airmen. Action repeated the following day.

12—Sousse occupied by the British Eighth Army.

Oro Bay (New Guinea) attacked by Japanese bombers and fighters. Heavy attacks on Port Moresby (April 13) and Milne Bay (April 15) follow.

Hitler confers with Premier Ian Antonescu of Rumania.

13—French cruiser *Georges Leygues* sinks German blockade runner.

14—British First Army takes critical heights near Medjez el Bab.

Palermo bombed by the U. S. A. F.; Naples and Messina by the R. A. F. on April 15.

18—58 Axis troop carriers and 16 escort fighters shot down over Sicilian Straits by the Ninth U. S. A. F. 12 more transports shot down by Tactical Air Force April 19.

19-20—Enfidaville attacked and occupied by the British Eighth Army.

April  
1943

- 20—President Roosevelt meets President Camacho of Mexico at Monterrey, Mexico.
- 21—Announcement made that the Japanese had executed some of the eight American aviators who participated in the raid on Tokyo, April 28, 1942.
- 24—Second U. S. Corps, transferred from El Guettar about April 16, advances to within 15 miles of Mateur. Holtz Bay and Chichagof on the Island of Attu shelled by U. S. Naval Task Force.
- 25—U. S. casualties to date 78,235.  
Long Stop Hill (Djebel el Ahmera) taken by the British First Army.
- 30—Kiska bombed for the 145th time during this month.

May

- 1—Hill 209 taken by Second U. S. Corps.
- 3—Mateur occupied by the Allies.  
Lt. Gen. F. M. Andrews C. G., E. T. O. killed in plane crash in Iceland. Lt. Gen. J. L. Devers appointed C. G., E. T. O. May 6.
- 4—Dortmund bombed by the R. A. F.  
U. S. announces that the Russell Islands were occupied in February 1943.  
Japanese attack north and south of the border between Hupeh and Hunan provinces, between Ichang and Tunting Lake. Their advance south of the Yangtze River continues until May 29.
- 5—Mussolini declares that "Italy must and will return" to her African Empire.  
Krymsk occupied by the Red Army in an offensive northeast of Novorossisk.
- 6—Massicault occupied by the British First Army in penetration of Axis lines with U. S. A. F. support.
- 7—Tunis entered by the British First Army at 2:05 p.m.  
Bizerte entered by the U.S. II Corps and the French Corps d'Afrique at 4:15 p.m. after occupying Ferryville at 4 p.m.  
Pont du Fahs occupied by the French and British.
- 8—Bryansk and other railroad junctions behind the German



May  
1943

front bombed by Soviet airmen opening an air offensive against rear areas.

- 9—Enemy forces on the U. S. Second Corps front surrender unconditionally at 11 a.m.
- 10—Hammamet reached by British First Army units.  
French break through Axis line north of Zaghouan.
- 11—Naval blockade of Pantelleria established.  
U. S. Army forces land on Attu (Aleutians).  
Prime Minister Churchill arrives in Washington for conference with combined staffs which continues to May 27.  
British patrols make the circuit of Cap Bon peninsula.  
British forces in Burma withdraw to the neighborhood of the Indian frontier.
- 12—General Von Arnim captured.  
Duisberg bombed by the R. A. F. in the heaviest raid to date at a cost of 32 planes.
- 13—The last remaining Axis elements in Tunisia surrender at 11:45 a.m.  
Augusta (Sicily) bombed by the Ninth U. S. A. F.
- 14—Antwerp, Courtrai, Velzen and Kiel bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F.
- 15—Emden bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. in the largest U. S. raid to date.  
The aerial offensive by United Nations flyers against German and Italian objectives is sustained throughout this month.  
Wake Island attacked by U. S. Army bombers.
- 16—Mussolini mobilizes all Fascist Party members for "emergency service."  
Sinking of 6 Japanese ships and damaging of another announced by the Navy Department.
- 17—Dams controlling the waters of the Ruhr and Weser Rivers breached by R. A. F. bombing.  
British announce the destruction of two blockade runners en route from the Far East to Germany with critical materials.

May  
1943

- 18—United Nations Food Conference opens at Hot Springs, Va.
- 20—President Roosevelt asks Congress of \$72,000,000,000 for the U. S. Army.
- 22—Battle for Attu enters its final phase.  
Japanese bombers unsuccessfully attack naval craft and shore installations on Attu.  
The Third Communist International (Comintern) declares itself dissolved.
- 23—Pantelleria bombed by the Northwest African A. F. in the first of a series of continuing attacks.  
Joseph E. Davies, bearing a personal letter from President Roosevelt to Stalin, is the guest of the Soviet Premier in Moscow.
- 29—Organized resistance by the Japanese on Attu ends.  
Chinese counterattack the Japanese forces between Ichang and Tunting Lake. Their counteroffensive, supported by Chinese fliers and the Fourteenth U. S. A. F., continues until the situation of May 4 (see above) is restored in mid-June.
- 30—Pantelleria bombarded from the sea. Naval bombardment on May 13 had preceded this action and others followed on June 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8.

June

- 1—Pantelleria, Sicily, Sardinia, and southern Italy hit by continued air attacks from North Africa, Malta, and the Middle East.  
Pantelleria bombarded from the sea for the second time (see May 30). Other bombardments follow on June 2, 3, 5, and 8.  
Sinking of 7 Japanese ships, and probable sinking of another by U. S. submarines announced by the Navy Department.
- 3—Orel railway junction bombed by Red Army flyers. Similar attacks on communication centers, e. g., Bryansk, Pskov, and Karchev, follow intermittently throughout this month.

June  
1943

5—Spezia (Italian naval base) bombed by U. S. Flying Fortresses.

6-7—Lampedusa raided by light naval forces.

8—Pantelleria's Italian garrison is summoned to surrender unconditionally. They ignore the demand, and night and day bombing continues.

11—Pantelleria surrenders unconditionally by Mussolini's order at 11:40 a.m. Aerial offensive against the island had been continuous since May 29.

Lampedusa surrenders at 5:30 p.m. after 24 hours intermittent naval and air bombardment.

Wilhelmshaven and Cuxhaven bombed in daylight by 200 Eighth U. S. A. F. bombers.

R. A. F. in the heaviest raid to date.

Düsseldorf, Munster, and Ruhr targets bombed by the

12—Near the Russell Islands (South Pacific) U. S. flyers down 25 out of 40-50 Japanese raiding planes.

13—Kiel and Bremen bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. which has been divided into a Strategic and a Tactical Air Force.

Linosa Island's garrison surrenders.

Creation of a Tactical Air Force by the R. A. F. in Britain announced.

14—Lampione (the last of the Italian islands in the Sicilian Straits) is occupied by a British naval landing party. Admiral Sir John Cunningham, Commander of British Eastern Mediterranean Fleet and U. S. Ambassador Steinhart confer with President Inonu at Ankara.

Legyi railroad bridge (Burma) bombed by the Tenth U. S. A. F. and Aykab by the R. A. F. as Allied bombing of Japanese positions in Burma continues in monsoon weather.

Sinking of 10 and damaging of 3 Japanese ships by U. S. submarines announced by the Navy Department. Total losses inflicted on the Japanese by such means now total 252; 180 ships sunk, 26 probably sunk, and 46 damaged.

15—Syrian-Turkish frontier closed. The frontier was, at least



June  
1943

partially, reopened on June 18.

16—Over Guadalcanal U. S. Army, Navy, and Marine pilots with New Zealanders and AA batteries on ships and shore down 94 out of 120 Japanese raiders. Six U. S. planes lost, but two pilots are rescued. One U. S. merchant ship and one landing barge are damaged. Attu casualties to this date total over 1,900 Japanese dead and 24 prisoners; U. S. 342 dead, 1,135 wounded, 58 missing.

18—Loss of U. S. C. G. cutter *Escanaba* on North Atlantic convoy duty announced.

Sicily and southern Italy declared to be a "zone of operations under martial law" by Mussolini.

Field Marshal Wavell, British Commander in India, named to succeed the Marquess of Linlithgow as Viceroy of India in September.

19—Le Creusot (Schneider munitions works) bombed by the R. A. F.

20—General Claude J. E. Auchinleck becomes Commander-in-Chief, India.

Friedrichshafen (radar factory) bombed by R. A. F. planes from Britain which flew on to North Africa. They completed a round trip of 2,400 miles on the night of June 23rd-24th without loss, bombing the Italian naval base at Spezia on the way.

21—Krefeld (Ruhr) bombed by the R. A. F.; 44 bombers missing. Losses of both the U. S. A. F. and the R. A. F. increase as damage to targets mounts and German opposition stiffens.

Over Port Darwin (Australia) Allied planes destroy or damage 22 out of a formation of 48 Japanese planes.

22—Huls (Ruhr) bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. in their deepest raid into Germany since that on Hamm on March 4.

Special Soviet Communique on the second anniversary of the German attack on the U. S. S. R. places the losses of Germany and her allies at 6,400,000 and those of the U. S. S. R. at 4,200,000.

June  
1943

In Lae (New Guinea) area Allied interceptors down or damage 23 out of a flight of 36 Japanese Zeros.

23—Allied positions on Lababia Ridge near Mubo (New Guinea) attacked by the Japanese, and again on June 24th.

24—Macassar (Netherlands East Indies) heavily bombed by Allied planes in 2,000 mile raid. Japanese cruiser and shore installations hit.

Sedes Airdrome at Salonika (Greece) bombed in daylight by the Ninth U. S. A. F. without loss.

Further sinkings of Axis ships (13) in Mediterranean announced as steady bombing of bases and lines of communication on Italian islands and mainland continues.

Elbefeld in western half of Wuppertal (Ruhr) bombed by the R. A. F.

U. S. casualties in the Armed Forces from December 7, 1941, to date fixed at 63,958 for the Army and total of 90,860.

25—Bochum Gelsenkirchen district (Ruhr) bombed by the R. A. F.

Messina heavily bombed by the Ninth U. S. A. F.

26—Sicilian and south Italian installations continue to be bombed steadily from North Africa, Malta and the Middle East.

27—Japanese communications in Burma heavily bombed by the Tenth U. S. A. F.

Airdromes near Athens bombed by the Ninth U. S. A. F. without loss.

28—Germans report Red Army attacks in Velikie Luki area. Sinking of 8 and damaging of 3 Japanese ships by U. S. submarines announced by the Navy Department. Total losses inflicted on the Japanese by such means now total 263; 188 ships sunk, 26 probably sunk and 49 damaged.

St. Nazaire and Beaumont le Roger bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. Cologne bombed by the R. A. F. Nauru Island (Gilberts) bombed by the U. S. A. F.

June  
1943

29—Chinese break into Owchihkow, but the Japanese are able to reinforce their garrison on June 30.

Darwin area (Australia) raided by the Japanese.

30—Southwest Pacific Theater joint operations begin.

Rendova Island and Viru Harbor (New Georgia) taken.

Japanese air attack on landing parties results in their loss of 101 planes. U. S. losses 17 planes with some pilots saved. U. S. transport *McCawley* sunk by Japanese submarine after being hit by torpedo plane attack.

Woodlark and Trobriand Island positions occupied.

Landing effected at Nassau Bay (New Guinea).

Japanese bases in the area heavily bombed.

June losses of Eighth U. S. A. F. (E. T. O.) 82 bombers; R. A. F. losses 269; the highest month's total of the war.

July

3—Air attacks on Sicilian and Italian objectives from North Africa, the Middle East, and Malta continue. Gerbini airdromes bombed on the 4th, 5th, 6th, 7th, and 9th as Allied air supremacy is asserted; 375,000 pounds of bombs dropped on Messina on the 5th.

British Admiralty and Air Ministry announce the provision of "complete shore-to-shore air cover" for Atlantic convoys.

Mytinge (Burma) bridge bombed. Action repeated on the 9th and 20th as Tenth U. S. A. F. and R. A. F. systematically attack communications in Burma.

Cologne bombed by the R. A. F. at a cost of 32 bombers.

Allied forces from Mubo (New Guinea) effect junction with troops landed at Nassau Bay.

4—Nantes, La Pallice and Le Mans bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. with Allied fighter protection.

Vila (Kolombangara Island) and Bairoko (New Georgia) shelled at night by U. S. naval forces in Kula Gulf. U. S. S. destroyer *Strong* lost.

Vanguna Island positions shelled. U. S. forces at Wickham Anchorage take Varu July 5.



July  
1943

5—Naval battle at night in Kula Gulf. U. S. cruiser *Helena* sunk. Japanese losses 5 or 6 light cruisers, 5 destroyers sunk.

U. S. S. R. announces offensive by 38 Axis divisions south from Orel and north from Belgorod.

6—Haiphong (Indo-China) bombed by the Fourteenth U. S. A. F. The action is repeated on July 10th, 11th, 12th, 18th, and 19th.

Kiska bombarded by surface units. Action is repeated on July 9th, 11th, 14th, 15th, 20th, 22d, and 30th as the air attack continues intermittently.

7—General Giraud, French Commander in Northwest Africa and cochairman of the French Committee of National Liberation arrives in Washington for conferences.

8—Cologne bombed by the R. A. F.

Maungdaw (Burma) entered by British and Indian troops in course of raid.

Sinking of 10 and damaging of 4 Japanese ships by U. S. submarines announced by the Navy Department. Total losses inflicted on the Japanese by such means now total 277; 180 ships sunk, 26 probably sunk, and 53 damaged.

9—Invasion of Sicily begins with descent of Allied glider-borne troops and parachutists at 2210 following intensified air assault on Axis installations.

10—Allied troops of the Fifteenth Army Group land on south and east Sicilian coast, where the success of all landings is assured by 0600.

President Roosevelt assures Pope Pius XII that churches and religious institutions in Italy will be spared "to the extent that it is within our power."

12—Syracuse occupied by the British Eighth Army, its port facilities undamaged.

Turin bombed by the R. A. F.

Naval action at night in Kula Gulf. U. S. destroyer *Gwin* lost. Japanese losses one light cruiser and three

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destroyers sunk, two destroyers probably sunk, in effort to reinforce Munda garrison.

- 13—Contact made between American and Canadian forces in southeast Sicily.

Aachen bombed by the R. A. F.

Orel railway junction bombed by the Red Air Force. Action is repeated on July 14th, 17th, 19th, 20th, and 21st.

M. Hoppenot, representing the French Committee of National Liberation, succeeds Admiral Robert as Governor General of Martinique following conferences between the latter and Vice Admiral J. H. Hoover, U. S. N.

- 14—Augusta occupied by the British Eighth Army, its port facilities undamaged.

Airfields in France (Villa Coublay, Le Bourget, Amiens-Glisy, Abbeville, and Tricqueville) bombed by U. S. Fortresses with R. A. F. fighter escort.

- 15—North Italian communications bombed by the R. A. F. Montbeliard (Peugot works) bombed by the R. A. F.

U. S. S. R. announces that the Red Army "recently went over to the offensive north and east of Orel."

- 16—Catania bombarded from the sea in support of British Eighth Army advancing in that direction from Augusta as U. S. Seventh Army moves west against Agrigento.

Axis captives in Sicilian campaign reported as 20,000.

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill call upon Italy to decide whether "Italians shall die for Mussolini and Hitler or live for Italy and civilization." Propaganda leaflets dropped on Rome.

Mubo (New Guinea) occupied.

- 17—Naples hit by heaviest air attack to date from North Africa and the Middle East.

Amsterdam and targets in northwest Germany bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. Two bombers lost as 50 German fighters are destroyed.

Kahili airdrome and Buin-Faisi Harbor (Bougainville

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1943

Hamburg bombed by the R. A. F. in the seventh Allied bombing since July 24.

British Eighth Army enlarges bridgehead north of Dittaino River in front of Catania as U. S. Seventh Army continues its advance eastward.

Sinking of 10 and damaging of 4 Japanese ships by U. S. submarines announced by the Navy Department. Total losses inflicted on the Japanese by such means now total 291; 208 ships sunk, 26 probably sunk and 57 damaged.

Mu River railroad bridge (Burma near Rangoon) destroyed by the Tenth U. S. A. F.

30—President Roosevelt expresses the hope of the United States Government "that no neutral government will permit its territory to be used as a place of refuge or otherwise assist Axis leaders or their tools in any effort to escape their just deserts." Great Britain and the Soviet Union take similar action.

Remscheid (center of machine tool industry) south of the Ruhr bombed by the R. A. F.

Kassel bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. as Allied fliers hit German targets in the Netherlands, Belgium, and France. Thunderbolts in support of the withdrawal from Kassel shoot down 25 German fighters, while the Fortresses down 27.

31—Allied broadcast warns Italians that the Badoglio government's failure to come to terms means that bombing, "let up" since July 25 will be resumed.

German installations in Belgium and northern France bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. and the R. A. F. as heaviest month's bombing of the Continent (approximately 26,000 tons) by Allied planes comes to a close.

August

1—Munda installations hit with 52 tons of bombs.

British Eighth Army extends its bridgehead south of Catania.

Burma, granted "independence" by Japan, declares war on the United States and Great Britain.



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medium bombers and two dive bombers.

Lashio (Burma) bombed by the Tenth U. S. A. F.

22—Red Army occupies Bolkhov, north of Orel, as Germans declare Soviet attacks center “at Kuibyshevo, Izyum, north of Belgorod and on the Orel bend.”

Palermo entered by U. S. Seventh Army without military opposition.

Bairoko Harbor (New Georgia) hit by 33 tons of bombs.

Kiska bombarded from the sea and bombed by U. S. and Canadian fliers.

U. S. submarine *Triton* reported lost.

23—Berlin announces that “in the western part of Sicily Axis troops have withdrawn to defense positions in the rear.”

Surabaya (Java) bombed by U. S. planes flying 2,400 miles. Oil refinery and harbor installations hit.

U. S. advanced air bases in China ineffectively raided by Japanese planes. Action repeated July 24 and 29.

Crete bombed by the R. A. F. and the Royal Hellenic A. F.

24—Marsala and Trapani occupied by U. S. Seventh Army which takes 50,000 prisoners in the area south and west of Palermo.

Wake Island bombed by U. S. planes for the seventh time since the Japanese occupation. Action repeated on July 27.

Eighth U. S. A. F. bombs Heroya, near Oslo, and submarine depot at Trondheim, as bombing operations based on Britain enter a new phase.

Hamburg bombed by the R. A. F. in the heaviest air assault on that city to date, and Leghorn by R. A. F. planes returning from North Africa.

Bologna bombed from North Africa.

U. S. S. R. announces that in the Belgorod area they have completely restored the situation prevailing before the start of the German offensive on July 5, and the Germans speak of “a swaying battle in the Orel area.”

25—Eighth U. S. A. F. bombs Warnemunde (Rostock) in

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their deepest penetration of Germany, together with Hamburg, Wustrow, Kiel, and Ghent at a cost of 19 bombers.

Lae (New Guinea) and Munda (New Georgia) areas heavily bombed.

Hamburg, Essen, and Cologne bombed by the R. A. F. at a cost of 26 planes.

King Victor Emmanuel announces that he has "accepted the resignation from office of the Head of the Government, Prime Minister and State Secretary, tendered by . . . Benito Mussolini." General Pietro Badoglio, appointed to the offices thus vacated, declares that "the war goes on."

Twenty-one Ju-52 troop carriers destroyed in the Messina area.

Eighteenth U. S. A. F. opens attack on Japanese installations in the Chinese area. Hankow airdrome bombed on this date and again on July 2, Hainan shipping and military establishments at Hong Kong on July 27, 28, and 29.

Sicilian and south Italian communications bombarded by Allied light surface units and shipping harried by U. S. PT boats between this date and July 29.

26—Hanover, Hamburg, Wilhelmshaven and Wesermunde, and airdromes in Belgium and France bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. at a cost of 26 planes. Fifty German fighters destroyed. Hamburg bombed again at night by R. A. F. Mosquitos.

Munda (New Georgia) hit with 186 tons of bombs.

27—Operations by the U. S. Seventh Army in Sicily "are proceeding according to plan" as the Canadians "make limited progress after heavy fighting." British troops continue their attacks on the German positions at Catania.

Hamburg bombed in the heaviest aerial attack of the war by the R. A. F. Over 2,500 tons of bombs dropped. Prime Minister Churchill declares that "It is in the interests of Italy, and also in the interest of the Allies, that

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1943

the unconditional surrender of Italy should be brought about wholesale and not piecemeal."

Kiska bombed by U. S. fliers for the fourth consecutive day.

28—Cefalu occupied by U. S. Seventh Army.

Kassel and Oschersleben (near Magdeburg) bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. in their deepest penetration of Germany to date. Sixty German planes destroyed. U. S. losses in this operation and in others over Belgium and France, 23 bombers and 1 fighter. Attacks by the R. A. F. and the Eighth U. S. A. F. on airfields and installations in Belgium and northern France continue.

Dissolution of the National Fascist Party by order of General Badoglio announced, coupled with the statement that the Italian people "were at war and they remain at war."

President Roosevelt states that "Our terms to Italy are still the same as our terms to Germany and Japan—'unconditional surrender.'"

U. S. ground forces close in on Munda as air attacks on Japanese installations continue.

Two Japanese destroyers and a transport destroyed by U. S. bombers in action extending into July 29 off Cape Gloucester (New Britain).

Red Army reaches a point 11 miles from Orel in its advance from the south, and makes gains in its drive on the city from the north.

29—General Eisenhower offers Italy peace "under honorable conditions which our Governments have already offered," and promises the release of Italian prisoners if British and Allied prisoners are "restored safely to us."

Nicosia reported captured by U. S. Seventh Army together with Pollina, Castelbuono and Gangi. Canadians, after occupying Leonforte, capture Agira. The Tactical Airforce bombs enemy installations and communications extensively.

Kiel and Warnemunde bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F.



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Island) raided by U. S. planes for nearly 9 hours. Seven Japanese ships, including a cruiser (or destroyer leader) and two destroyers sunk, and 49 Japanese planes downed at a cost of six U. S. planes. Further damage to ships and planes inflicted in second raid on July 20.

U. S. S. R. announces that the situation in the Orel-Kursk sector is restored to that existing before July 5, by Red Army offensive begun on July 7.

18—Agrigento and Caltanissetta taken by Americans and Piazza Amerina by Canadians.

Fascist rule in Sicily ended by order of General Alexander acting as military governor under AMGOT (Allied Military Government of Occupied Territory).

19—Off Palermo 15 Ju-52 troop carriers are shot down by U. S. Lightnings.

Paramushiro (Kuril Islands) bombed by U. S. planes. Rome railway yards and munitions factories bombed in daylight by U. S. planes based on North Africa and Libya.

Hitler and Mussolini confer at a town in northern Italy "for extensive discussion of the present military situation" in an "atmosphere of cordial understanding."

Two naval actions off the west coast of Kolombangara Island involving a total of nine Japanese destroyers, three of which were hit by gunfire and one by a torpedo. The enemy were turned back.

20—Macassar (Celebes) bombed for 5 hours by U. S. fliers. Red Army occupies Mtsensk and Voroshilovo to the north and east of Orel, and announces attack southwest from Voroshilovgrad and in the region of the Mius River.

21—Taormina bombarded from the sea at night.

Italians announce the evacuation of Enna.

Japanese convoy attempting to reach Vila (Kolombangara Island) attacked by U. S. planes. One light cruiser and two destroyers sunk, one destroyer probably sunk, another and a transport damaged. U. S. loses two

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Ploesti (Rumania) oil fields and refineries bombed by over 175 Liberators of the Ninth U. S. A. F. at a cost of 20 percent of attacking planes. 51 enemy planes destroyed in what the R. A. F. described as "one of the greatest air achievements of the war."

Red Army continues its advance on Orel.

2—Italian people warned "We insist on unconditional surrender," and of day and night bombings and invasion of the mainland "if you do not make your voices heard."

Hamburg bombed by 800 planes of the R. A. F. at a cost of 30 bombers.

3—Capizzi and Cerami in the hands of the U. S. Seventh Army, as Canadians take Regalbuto and Irish Brigade of the British Eighth Army captures Centuripe.

British Admiralty and Air Ministry announce the "successful passage" of a valuable convoy after a 3-day battle of planes, frigates, and corvettes against U-boats.

Naples bombed by the North African A. F. for the second consecutive day.

4—Offensive vs. enemy barges in New Guinea destroys or damages 200 in the last 10 days.

Agira taken by the Canadians, and Catenanuova by the U. S. Seventh Army.

Red Army announces that it has gone "over to the offensive in the Kharkov direction."

Ruhr targets bombed by R. A. F. Mosquitoes.

5—Catania entered by the British Eighth Army at 8:30 a.m.

Sweden cancels facilities previously allowed Germany for the transit of troops and war materials.

6—"Munda (New Georgia) is now in our hands. All organized enemy resistance has ceased"; 1,671 known enemy dead.

Troina captured by the U. S. Seventh Army.

Orel and Belgorod occupied by the Red Army exactly 1 month after the Germans began their offensive.

7—Amphibian troops of the U. S. Seventh Army land at

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night behind Axis lines near Torrenova with fire support from heavy U. S. naval units. 1,500 prisoners taken.

Milan, Turin, and Genoa bombed by the R. A. F.

Naval action at night in Vella Gulf (off Kolombangara Island). One Japanese cruiser and two destroyers sunk, and a destroyer probably sunk. No U. S. losses.

8—Red Army advances to a point 12 miles west of Orel on the road to Bryansk.

9—Salamaua (New Guinea) installations hit by 142 tons of bombs as the strength of U. S. A. F. raids in the Southwest Pacific is stepped up.

Stabia (Gulf of Naples) shelled by British fleet units as Allied navies continue their support of land operations.

10—Amphibian troops of the U. S. Seventh Army land behind Axis lines east of Cape Orlando, and make contact with their main body on August 13.

Nuremberg bombed by the R. A. F.

Prime Minister Churchill arrives in Canada for Conferences.

11—U. S. Seventh and British Eighth Armies establish contact to the north and west of Bronté.

Terni (40 miles north of Rome) bombed by the North African A. F., as Malta's Mosquitoes raid Italian communications and R. A. F. planes from the Middle East bomb San Giovanni.

Ruhr and Rhineland targets bombed by the R. A. F.

Red Army cuts Kharkov-Poltava railway at Vodyanaya west of Kharkov.

12—Germans announce that "In Sicily Axis troops systematically withdrew to a shortened bridgehead position." "What matters is to prevent the enemy from extending his operations to the mainland." Axis prisoners in Allied hands total 125,000. Reports indicate intensified Axis attempts to evacuate troops across the Straits of Messina.



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Milan and Turin bombed by the R. A. F. "in greater strength than ever before."

Gelsenkirchen and Wesseling synthetic oil refineries bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. with Allied fighter escort, together with Bonn (Ruhr) and targets in Belgium and northern France; 21 enemy fighters destroyed and 25 bombers missing.

Berlin bombed by R. A. F. Mosquitoes.

Japanese installations in the Kurile Islands bombed by nine U. S. Army Liberators.

13—Cape Orlando, Naso, and Brolo occupied by the U. S. Seventh Army, Randazzo occupied by Americans and British, and Torre Archirafi by the British Eighth Army as U. S. and British naval forces shell communications on the north and east coasts of Sicily.

Rome railway yards of San Lorenzo raided a second time by U. S. A. F. bombers.

U. S. S. R. announces the launching of an offensive "lately" from Spas Demensk and gains of territory in "3 days of tense battles."

Randazzo entered by the U. S. Seventh Army.

Amphibious landing east of Cape Orlando (August 10th) now "fully exploited."

Wiener Neustadt (27 miles south of Vienna) Messerschmitt factory bombed by the Ninth U. S. A. F.

14—Milan bombed by the R. A. F. Action is repeated on August 15th.

Sinking of 7 and damaging of 5 Japanese ships by U. S. submarines operating in the Pacific is announced by the Navy Department. Total losses inflicted on the Japanese by such means now total 303; 215 ships sunk, 26 probably sunk and 62 damaged.

President Roosevelt and Prime Minister Churchill announce that 90 U-Boats were sunk by Allied action in the period May through June 1943, and that Allied replacements of ship losses exceeded sinkings by "upwards of 3,000,000 tons" in 1943.

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15—Kiska occupied without opposition by U. S. and Canadian troops landed by a naval task force of the U. S. Pacific Fleet. During August the island had been repeatedly bombed from the air and shelled from the sea. The last indication of the presence of Japanese forces was on August 13th when "light antiaircraft fire was encountered."

British Eighth Army occupies Fiumefreddo and Piedimonte as the U. S. Seventh Army advances to Oliveri.

Sweden bans the transport of German military personnel over Swedish territory, and the sale of chlorine to Germany.

U. S. Navy Department announces the loss of a destroyer, a submarine and four small ships in various theaters of operations.

Red Army occupies Karachev on the road to Bryansk.

Balik Papan (Borneo) oil refineries bombed. Action is repeated on August 17th.

Vella Lavella Island (New Guinea) occupied by U. S. Army and Marines. Thirty-four Japanese planes attempting to interfere with the landings are destroyed.

16—U. S. Seventh Army advances to the vicinity of Milazzo. British commando lands 8 miles south of Messina as the British Eighth Army occupies the line Taormina—Kaggi—Castiglione.

U. S. amphibious group lands near Milazzo.

Turin bombed by the R. A. F. and Foggia by the Ninth U. S. A. F.

Six airdromes in northern France bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. and the R. A. F.

17—U. S. Seventh Army advances through Gesso and enters Messina. "All organized resistance is at an end on the island." "The Seventh United States Army and the Eighth British Army have effected their junction in Messina." Enemy prisoners total over 135,000. Enemy casualties estimated as not less than 32,000. Allied casualties placed at 25,000.

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British submarines report sinking of nine enemy ships in the Mediterranean.

Wewak (New Guinea) airdromes bombed. Action is repeated on August 19th. Over 200 enemy planes destroyed on the ground in surprise raid, and more than 30 shot down in air combats.

Schweinfurt and Regensburg bombed by the Eighth U. S. A. F. Fortresses flew on to North Africa after attacking Regensburg.

Peenemunde (60 miles northwest of Stettin) bombed by the R. A. F., and Berlin by R. A. F. Mosquitoes.



## Section G

### *The Tunisian Campaign*

*(Materials for this section are derived from public sources.)*

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#### *The Campaign Opens*

On November 8, 1942, American and British forces began their landing at many points on the coasts of French Morocco and Algeria (see above p. D18).

French resistance ceased on November 11th, and French troops of General Giraud, eventually over 50,000 in number, were soon fighting alongside the Allied units which hurried eastward in an attempt to win Bizerte and Tunis before these main Axis positions could be strengthened by reinforcements and matériel from Europe.

#### *The Allies Rush for Tunis*

In late November forward Allied elements which had participated in a swift, gambler's advance, reached points within 10 miles of Tunis, but were unable to establish a front there. Von Arnim's Axis armies were speedily reinforced and supplied by sea and air over short routes from their Italian bases.

The Axis were intent on either

1. Retaining their African bridgehead.
2. Providing an avenue of escape for Rommel's retreating troops.
3. Winning time to perfect their European defenses by fighting a delaying action in Tunisia.

The nearest Allied source of supply and reinforcement was 1,500 miles away.

The North African lines of communication immediately available for Allied use were long (over 500 miles), damaged, and inadequate, and their use at the outset of the campaign was limited by heavy rains which likewise hampered the operations of troops and planes at the front.

Nevertheless, supply, particularly of ammunition, was maintained throughout the campaign, even when the burden was increased by the opening of Allied offensive actions in mid-March 1943.

### *A Quick Decision Denied to the Allies*

Before the end of the year it was evident that the Allies could not win a quick decision in Tunisia.

Von Arnim's forces recovered the advanced positions which American, British, and French troops had briefly held on the roads to Bizerte and Tunis, and the Tunisian front was stabilized in positions on the general line from Sedjenane through Medjez el Bab and Bou Arada to the mountainous region of the Grand Dorsal in the east.

### *Extension of the Allied Lines*

In January 1943 the Allies extended their positions to the south as their planes began a bombardment of the enemy's Tunisian and Italian bases and their naval and air attacks on Axis shipping were stepped up.

Ground actions developed near Pont du Fahs (on the road to Tunis), Ousseltia (on the road to Sousse), Faïd (on the road to Sfax), and Maknassy (on the road to Mahares).

### *The British Eighth Army and the French Close in From Libya*

Meanwhile the British Eighth Army, which had advanced from El Alamein in Egypt to Sirte in Tripolitania between October 23 and December 25, 1942, continued its pursuit of Rommel's Axis forces.

On January 18, 1943 General Montgomery's troops occupied Misurata and 5 days later, exactly 3 months after the battle of El Alamein began, they entered Tripoli.

A Fighting French column under General Leclerc, which had crossed a thousand miles of desert from Lake Chad, made touch with a camel corps of General Giraud's forces and with patrols of the Eighth Army some 500 miles south of Tripoli (January 19-20, 1943).

Together the French forces marched north on Montgomery's desert flank, and occupied Fort Saint, in the extreme south

of Tunisia (January 26, 1943), as the Eighth Army crossed the Tunisian frontier near the sea (January 30, 1943).

### *Unified Command of the Allied Forces Perfected*

On February 11, 1943 the eventual junction of the Allied armies in North Africa was anticipated by a further unification of command.

General Eisenhower (U. S. A.) was freed from his responsibilities as commander of the European Theater of Operations, made a full general and given command over all forces in North Africa including the British Eighth Army. General Alexander (British) was made Deputy Commander in charge of all forces east of Algiers, Sir Andrew Cunningham (British) commander of all naval forces, and Air Marshal Tedder (British), Air Chief Mediterranean Theater, with Major General Spaatz (U. S. A.) as Deputy Chief of Staff.

### *The Axis Foray Against Tebessa*

As the Allies were settling into positions on their long front, Von Arnim and Rommel, who enjoyed the advantages of interior lines, engaged in a local offensive.

At dawn on February 14, 1943 they launched their troops against the American forces west of Faïd Pass and in front of Gafsa.

The Axis attack from this quarter was unexpected, and Allied reserves were not disposed in a fashion to meet it promptly. Strong thrusts developed through Faïd Pass in the direction of Sbeitla and through Sened on the road to Gafsa.

The American positions immediately west of the Pass were overrun and Gafsa had to be abandoned.

Counterattacks by troops who lacked battle experience failed to remedy the situation in the days which followed.

The Germans and Italians, moving west from Faïd Pass, forced the Americans from Sbeitla after heavy fighting.

In their advance in the south they occupied Gafsa, and, moving northwest from that point, forced the Allies to abandon Feriana, to withdraw to Kasserine, and to readjust their positions to the north in the region of Fondouk and Pichon.

On February 20th a further Axis attack gave them possession of Kasserine Pass, and threatened the new American base at Tebessa some 30 miles to the west.



### *The Axis Advance Stopped*

Meanwhile British infantry and armor had been brought to Thala on the northern flank of the German advance, while American infantry and artillery concentrated on the threatened position by forced marches.

Rommel's thrust against Thala on February 22d was stopped by British tanks and infantry backed by U. S. artillery.

Axis attacks delivered the same day upon Sbiba and in the direction of Tebessa made little progress.

Their advance had reached its high water mark.

On February 23rd Rommel began his withdrawal.

The Allies used all available types of aircraft to pound his eastward moving columns, and pursued vigorously on the ground.

They were delayed by Rommel's effective use of army and artillery and of extensive minefields skillfully disposed to cover the Axis withdrawal, but on February 25th they had won through Kasserine Pass.

But Rommel was able to break contact and to establish his forces at Hadjeb el Aioun, Sidi bou Zid and Gafsa where American forces had been concentrated prior to the attack on February 14th, and Berlin announced (February 26th) that "our offensive operations in Central Tunisia have been concluded."

The Axis foray had inflicted losses upon the Allies. Furthermore it, at least temporarily, reduced the danger that the lines of communication between Von Arnim and Rommel might be cut through by a further Allied advance from Gafsa and Faïd.

### *Realignment of Positions in Tunisia*

While the Axis attack on Central Tunisia was under way the British Eighth Army had reestablished contact with Rommel's forces and established themselves in Fom Tathouine and in front of Medinine facing the Mareth Line (February 18th).

In early March the Americans retook Sbeitla (March 1st) and the French occupied Nefta (March 3d) and Tozeur (March 8th) on the northern shores of Chott Djerid and on the southern flank of the reorganized U. S. II Corps. On the other hand Von Arnim was able to wrest Sedjenane from the British in the north in a local offensive.

### *The Battles for the Mareth Positions*

Rommel's forces in their hill positions among the old French defenses of the Mareth Line were threatened in front and on their right flank by the British Eighth Army. French and Americans menaced their lines of communications north of the Chott Djerid.

A further forced withdrawal of Rommel's command was imminent.

To reduce the pressure to which his front was subjected, and possibly to disengage his forces and facilitate their removal northward, the German Field Marshal attacked.

On March 4, 1943 he drove at Montgomery from the northern end of the Mareth Line, but his armor suffered such loss that he was forced to retire to the heights near Toujane and Hallouf whence he had launched his assault. (Soon after, about March 15th, Rommel was called back to Germany, ostensibly on sick leave.)

The Allies then made a series of coordinated forward moves in which Americans, French, and British shared.

When the Americans retook Gafsa (March 17th) and advanced thence to El Guettar (March 18th) and to Maknassy (March 23rd) they again threatened the Axis lines of communication extending from north to south, and forced the enemy to defend that area as well as his positions in the Mareth Line. Axis troops and armor employed there to meet General Patton's troops reduced the Axis forces available to meet the attacking British Eighth Army farther south.

When the Fighting French appeared in the vicinity of Ksar Rhilane (March 12th) their action constituted a possible threat to the rear of the Mareth Line: a threat which was enlarged as British forces joined them.

When the Eighth Army attacked the Mareth Line in force on the night of March 20th-21st they fixed the remaining Axis forces there in a fashion which facilitated the rapid advance of Lieutenant General Freyberg's New Zealand column through Ksar Rhilane to its violent attack upon El Hamma (March 26th) to the north and west of the Axis' positions. This flanking movement in turn forced the enemy to withdraw from the Mareth Line (March 26th) and to abandon Mareth, Toujane, and Matama (March 28th).

By March 30th the entire Mareth position, together with El Hamma, Gabes, Methouia, and Oudref to the north, were in British hands. During the preceding ten days the Eighth Army had taken 8,000 prisoners.

### *The Allies Attack Axis Positions From Coast to Coast*

The French continued offensive actions in the closing days of March.

In the north they made local gains in the Ousseltia region and recaptured Tamera and Sedjenane near the northern coast.

In the south they threatened Kebili by an advance from the desert, and a Fighting French contingent moved with the British Eighth Army in the attack and pursuit of Axis forces in rear of the Mareth Line.

The coordination of all the Allied forces in North Africa was improved when patrols of the U. S. II Corps, operating east of El Guettar, made contact with like elements of the British Eighth Army 15 miles east of that place on April 7th, five months after the North African landings began.

Thereafter it was possible to supply Montgomery's troops from North African bases.

Although the burden on lines of communication from the ports to the front was increased, an immense saving was effected of time and tonnage since the roundabout route around the Cape to Egypt and west from Egypt was no longer essential.

The transfer of troops from one front to the other was also possible.

Between April 3rd and April 6th

General Giraud's Moroccans occupied Cap Serrat on the northern coast of Tunisia,

The British First Army began offensive operations in the Medjez el Bab area fronting Tunis,

General Patton's Second U. S. Corps moved forward east of El Guettar on the road to Gabes on the east coast.

At 4:30 a.m. on April 6, 1943 Indian and British troops of the British Eighth Army, assaulted the Oued (Wadi) el Akharit positions extending inland from the coast some 17 miles north of Gabes.

Contact with the withdrawing Germans and Italians had been reestablished earlier. Now the British attacked the enemy's



new defensive positions disposed along a natural obstacle. This assault prospered in spite of strong counterattacks, and early on April 7th the position was carried and the British pursuit of the Axis was resumed. 9,500 prisoners were taken, and Mahares, Sfax and Sousse were occupied by April 12th. Axis forces took up new defensive positions on the coast near Enfidaville.

Coincident with the action at Oued el Akharit an attempt by American and British forces to break through Fondouk and Kairouan to the coast (April 8th), and so to cut off the German withdrawal, failed, although Kairouan was occupied by April 12th.

### *Attacks From Air and Sea*

No respite was given to Von Arnim and his Axis forces.

Their Tunisian airfields and bases, their retreating columns, and their lines of communication with Italy were subjected to intensified attack from the air and sea.

In two days, April 18th-19th, 70 troop carrying Ju-52's and 24 of their fighter escorts were shot down over the Sicilian straits.

Air attacks were extended to Axis bases on the Italian mainland and Italian islands.

Their weight was acknowledged by Mussolini, who proclaimed on April 16th that Sicily, Sardinia, Pantelleria, and Lampedusa were "operation areas."

### *Ground Attacks Develop Along the Entire Front*

On the ground Allied forces attacked again and again.

In front of Medjez el Bab the British First Army, reinforced by three divisions transferred from the Eighth Army, took and held the commanding height of Djebel Ang on April 16th in their advance on the north side of the Medjerda valley. By the 25th Long Stop Hill (Djebel el Ahmera) was theirs after 5 days of violent attacks and counterattacks.

On about April 16th the Second U. S. Corps, now under Major General Bradley, had been moved 150 miles from its previous positions in the south to the Beja area in the north.

On April 23d-24th, it went into action astride the road from Sedjenane to Mateur, with Moroccans advancing on its left.

On April 26th it attacked along the road from Beja to Mateur

which was destined to be the line of its major effort in days to come.

That same day the French XIX Corps stormed through mountainous terrain and, with British support, drove against Pont du Fahs.

Enfidaville, where Axis forces were concentrated, was occupied by the British Eighth Army in a night attack on April 19th-20th, and slow but steady progress was made thereafter in wresting mountain positions from the Axis.

### *The Allies Exploit Their Initial Successes*

At the end of April 1943, therefore, the initiative was completely in the hands of the Allies who were employing it to the full. The British Eighth Army was threatening the southern flank of the Axis' positions which were now so few and so constricted as to make maneuver difficult.

In the north the Allies were moving through the parallel valleys of the Mala, the Djoumini, the Medjerda, and the Miliane against key positions in the plains before Bizerte and Tunis. Americans and French threatened Mateur from positions in front of Sedjenane and Beja.

The British First Army menaced Tebourba from Medjez el Bab and struggled to move northeast from Bou Arada against bitter opposition.

The French XIX Corps imperilled Pont du Fahs by their forward movement.

Axis airpower was driven from the skies as coordinated Allied attacks were pushed home in the climax of the six months' campaign.

French Goumiers moved along the coast as Americans stormed the hills commanding the road to Mateur and the British slugged away among the heights abreast of the roads from Medjez el Bab to Tunis.

Hill 209 (Djebel Tahent) was finally taken by troops on the right flank of the U. S. II Corps on May 1st after 5 days of bitter fighting.

On May 3d Americans and French closed to within 13 miles of Bizerte on the north of Lake Achkel, while to the south of it Americans took Mateur itself.

"After 10 days of relentless pressure and much heavy fighting American troops have forced the enemy in the north

sector to evacuate all his forward positions." (Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Communique, May 4, 1943.) Ferryville, and Bizerte as well, were brought under the fire of American 155's, and Tebourba lay within the jaws of Anglo-American pincers as the grand climax approached.

### *The Battle for Tunisia Enters Its Final Phase*

On May 5-6, 1943 the British First Army loosed a concentrated attack designed to smash through to Tunis along the 10-mile front between the roads leading to Tunis from Medjez el Bab via Tebourba and Massicault.

British divisions, supported by an intense artillery barrage and by 1,200 sorties on the part of the Twelfth U. S. A. F., occupied Massicault on the afternoon of May 6th. Axis resistance, hitherto exceedingly stiff, was relatively weak, suggesting that troops had been withdrawn to strengthen the Enfidaville lines, or that they were evacuating the threatened area west of Tunis.

On the same day that the British entered Massicault the Americans took Djebel Achkel, a commanding height on the southern shores of the lake of that name, and the French improved their positions east of Pont du Fahs.

The next day, May 7th, the Axis positions collapsed along the entire front.

Tunis was entered by the British at 2:50 p.m. Tebourba was, for the moment, bypassed along with other centers of Axis resistance in front of Tunis.

Ferryville was cleared by the U. S. II Corps at 4 p.m.

Bizerte was first entered by forward elements, American and French, at 4:15 p.m.

General Giraud's men and units of the British Eighth Army occupied Pont du Fahs.

"Unconditional surrender," as stipulated at the Allied conference at Casablanca in January 1943, were the only terms offered the defeated enemy, 50,000 of whom were rounded up between May 7th and May 9th.

### *The Concluding Actions*

The Allies exploited their victories of May 7th relentlessly.

It was fully in their power to do so since "on the whole front, except for the entrance to the Cap Bon peninsula, enemy



resistance has appeared to be thoroughly demoralized.... No enemy aircraft has been seen over Tunisia, and the German Air Force appears to have withdrawn from the battle." (Allied Headquarters in North Africa, Communique, May 9, 1943.)

From Bizerte and Mateur, Americans moved east to join with British columns coming west from Tunis. Other swiftly moving British units swept east from the capital toward the entrance of the Cap Bon peninsula, while the French and the British Eighth Army closed in on the Axis' southern flank at Zaghouan and Djedem.

On May 10th it was announced that "In Northern Tunisia all organized fighting ended on the U.S. II Corps front at 11 a.m. yesterday, the terms of surrender being unconditional."

Berlin sought to bolster the morale of the home front by insisting that "German troops were fighting until the last cartridge was spent," although mass surrenders and the mounting list of captured equipment contradicted their propaganda.

Allied air supremacy, coupled with a close inshore and offshore naval blockade of Cap Bon, and of Italian Pantelleria as well, made certain that there would be no Axis Dunkirk.

The British First Army broke through to the coast at Hammamet and swept north, fighting a last tank battle at the key road junction of Grombalia on May 10th and further segmenting Axis resistance.

Von Arnim was captured near Ste. Marie du Zib by Ghurkas from the Northwest Frontier of India while British armored patrols made a complete circuit of Cap Bon on May 11th.

Pockets of resistance alone remained after the surrender (May 13th) of the Italians who had continued resistance north of Enfidaville.

### *Finale*

Three communiques marked the end of the Tunisian campaign on May 13, 1943.

The first two exhibit the Axis' desire to gloss over their defeat by reference to the stout resistance of their troops and the length of their African campaigns. The third is a statement of fact on the part of the victors.

1. "The heroic struggle of German and Italian Africa detachments today came to an honorable conclusion." (German, May 13, 1943.)
2. "Thus after 35 months of resistance the African battle has come to an end." (Italian, May 13, 1943.)
3. "No Axis forces remain in North Africa who are not prisoners in our hands. The last remaining elements surrendered at 11:45 a.m., May 13." (Allied Headquarters in North Africa, May 14, 1943.)

The Germans and Italians had employed 15 combat divisions plus supporting troops in the campaign.

Their casualties totaled 323,000 since March 21, 1943, according to Allied Headquarters in North Africa.

30,000 killed, 27,000 wounded, 266,00 captured, including 14 German and 4 Italian generals.

The total of Allied casualties were less than 70,000.

U. S. casualties since November 8, 1942, totaled 18,738; 2,574 killed, 9,437 wounded, 1,620 missing, 5,107 reported as prisoners of war.

British casualties since January 30, 1943, totaled 35,000 (11,500 in the Eighth Army and 23,500 in the First Army) according to Prime Minister Churchill's statement on June 9th. (Since June 10, 1941 British casualties in Africa totaled 220,000.)

### *Epilogue—Pantelleria and Lesser Italian Islands*

On May 24, 1943, eleven days after the surrender of the last Axis units in Tunisia, the communique from Allied Headquarters in North Africa stated that the "Northwest African Air Forces yesterday directed their attention to the island of Pantelleria."

It was not the first time that this, and other Italian island stepping stones to Italy, had received Allied attention.

As early as May 11th a close blockade had been set about Pantelleria whose strength was said to rival that of much bombed British Malta, and Allied fliers had bombed it previously.

The aerial attack was sustained and supplemented by bombardments from the sea on May 30-31, June 1, 2, 3, 5, and 8.

The bombing was of the heaviest variety and of precision type.

It inflicted great damage and demoralized the Italian garrison and its commander.

On June 8th the first demand was made for the island's unconditional surrender.

It was disregarded by the Italian commander, but the Allied communique declared that "Pantelleria was bombed and bombarded on this date and will continue to be subjected to bombing, bombardment and blockade."

After disregarding a second demand for surrender, the garrison capitulated at 11:40 a.m. on June 11th, on orders from Mussolini. Over 11,000 prisoners were taken.

Landing forces were standing by off the island in the last stages of the aerial and naval bombardment.

They landed after the surrender.

Air power had been largely responsible for the capitulation of a heavily fortified island some 40 square miles in area.

President Roosevelt took this occasion to warn the Italian people that "the war must continue as long as Mussolini ruled and Germans dominated Italian life."

Pantelleria's smaller sister island of Lampedusa, which was raided by light British surface units on the night of June 6th-7th, surrendered at 5:30 p.m. on June 11th after 24 hours of intermittent naval and air bombardment.

Other small Italian islands in the vicinity experienced a similar fate.

Linosa surrendered on June 13th, and the following day British forces occupied the tiny rock of Lampione.

These captures, rounding out the North African conquests, together with the improved position of Allied sea power, and the effects produced by repeated bombings of Sicily and Sardinia, assisted in freeing the Mediterranean for Allied use as a line of communications.

Together they opened the way for the possible establishment of a "Second Front" on some portion of the European Continent touched by the Mediterranean Sea.

The conquest of Africa was complete.

The Battle of the Mediterranean entered a new phase.



## Section W

### *The Bill of Rights*

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MARCH 15, 1791

IN 1777 the Continental Congress framed the Articles of Confederation to provide for the government of the thirteen colonies which were therein described as The United States of America. These Articles went into effect in 1781, but proved insufficient to care for the needs of the new nation in a variety of respects, e. g. taxation, the regulation of commerce, western lands, Indian affairs, paper money, and military matters.

To remedy these defects a Constitutional Convention met in Philadelphia in May 1787. Its labors resulted in the document which begins "We, the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquillity, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

The proposed Constitution declared (Article I, Section 9) that the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus should not be suspended save in cases of rebellion or invasion, and provided (Article III, Section 2) for jury trial of all crimes, save in cases of impeachment. But in the eyes of many it failed to provide sufficient guarantees for individual rights and liberties. These people still held, as in 1776, that "tyranny, like Hell, is not easily conquered," and demanded protection against it. Accordingly, during the sessions of ratifying conventions in some states, promises were made that if the new constitution were ratified amendments would at once be added to provide such guarantees.

In keeping with these promises and in response to popular demand the first ten amendments were passed by the new Congress of the United States in its first session in 1789. They were ratified by a sufficient number of states and became effective December 15, 1791.

They were patterned after a like guarantee of rights and liberties established in Great Britain in 1689. This latter document, from which the wording of some amendments was derived, was entitled "The Bill of Rights." The same title has naturally been applied to Amendments I-X to the Constitution of the United States, which read as follows:

#### ARTICLE I

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

#### ARTICLE II

A well regulated militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear arms, shall not be infringed.

#### ARTICLE III

No soldier shall, in time of peace be quartered in any house, without the consent of the owner, nor in time of war, but in a manner to be prescribed by law.

#### ARTICLE IV

The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue, but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation, and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.

#### ARTICLE V

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or other infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a grand jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the militia, when in actual service in time of war or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offense to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

## ARTICLE VI

In all criminal prosecutions, the accused shall enjoy the right of a speedy and public trial, by an impartial jury of the State and district wherein the crime shall have been committed, which districts shall have been previously ascertained by law, and to be informed of the nature and cause of the accusation; to be confronted with the witnesses against him; to have compulsory process for obtaining witnesses in his favor, and to have the assistance of counsel for his defense.

## ARTICLE VII

In suits at common law, where the value in controversy shall exceed twenty dollars, the right of trial by jury shall be preserved, and no fact tried by a jury, shall be otherwise re-examined in any court of the United States, than according to the rules of common law.

## ARTICLE VIII

Excessive bail shall not be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted.

## ARTICLE IX

The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.

## ARTICLE X

The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.



## *"The Four Freedoms"*

ANNUAL MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT TO CONGRESS JANUARY 6, 1941

... In the future days, which we seek to make secure, we look forward to a world founded upon four essential human freedoms.

The first is freedom of speech and expression—everywhere in the world.

The second is freedom of every person to worship God in his own way—everywhere in the world.

The third is freedom from want—which, translated in world terms, means economic understandings which will secure to every nation a healthy peacetime life for its inhabitants—everywhere in the world.

The fourth is freedom from fear—which, translated into world terms, means a world-wide reduction of armaments to such a point and in such a thorough fashion that no nation will be in a position to commit an act of physical aggression against any neighbor—anywhere in the world.

That is no vision of a distant millennium. It is a definite basis for a kind of world attainable in our own time and generation. That kind of world is the very antithesis of the so-called new order of tyranny which the dictators seek to create with the crash of a bomb.

To that new order we oppose the greater conception—the moral order. A good society is able to face schemes of world domination and foreign revolutions alike without fear.

Since the beginning of our American history we have been engaged in change—in a perpetual peaceful revolution—a revolution which goes on steadily, quietly adjusting itself to changing conditions—without the concentration camp or the quick-lime in the ditch. The world order which we seek is the cooperation of free countries, working together in a friendly, civilized society.

This nation has placed its destiny in the hands and heads and hearts of its millions of free men and women; and its faith in freedom under the guidance of God. Freedom means the supremacy of human rights everywhere. Our support goes to those who struggle to gain those rights or keep them. Our strength is in our unity of purpose.

To that high concept there can be no end save victory.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT  
THE WHITE HOUSE, *January 6, 1941.*

## *The Atlantic Charter*

AUGUST 14, 1941

Joint declaration of the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister, Mr. Churchill, representing His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, being met together, deem it right to make known certain common principles in the national policies of their respective countries on which they base their hopes for a better future for the world.

FIRST, Their countries seek no aggrandizement, territorial or other;

SECOND, They desire to see no territorial changes that do not accord with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned;

THIRD, They respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live; and they wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them;

FOURTH, They will endeavor, with due respect for their existing obligations, to further the enjoyment by all States, great or small, victor or vanquished, of access, on equal terms, to the trade and to the raw materials of the world which are needed for their economic prosperity;

FIFTH, They desire to bring about the fullest collaboration between all nations in the economic field with the object of securing, for all, improved labor standards, economic adjustment and social security;

SIXTH, After the final destruction of the Nazi tyranny, they hope to see established a peace which will afford to all nations the means of dwelling in safety within their own boundaries, and which will afford assurance that all the men in all the lands may live out their lives in freedom from fear and want;

SEVENTH, Such a peace should enable all men to traverse the high seas and oceans without hindrance;

EIGHTH, They believe that all of the nations of the world, for realistic as well as spiritual reasons, must come to the abandonment of the use of force. Since no future peace can be maintained if land, sea or air armaments continue to be employed by nations which threaten, or may threaten, aggression outside of their frontiers, they believe, pending the establishment of a wider and permanent system of general security, that

the disarmament of such nations is essential. They will likewise aid and encourage all other practicable measures which will lighten for peace-loving peoples the crushing burden of armaments.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

WINSTON S. CHURCHILL



*Resolution*

EXPRESSING ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES OF THE ATLANTIC  
CHARTER ADOPTED BY THE INTER-ALLIED MEETING, ST.  
JAMES'S PALACE, LONDON, SEPTEMBER 24, 1941.

The Governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, and the representatives of General de Gaulle, leader of Free Frenchmen,

Having taken note of the declaration recently drawn up by the President of the United States and the Prime Minister, Mr. Winston Churchill, on behalf of His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom,

Now make known their adherence to the common principles of policy set forth in that declaration and their intention to cooperate to the best of their ability in giving effect to them.

## *Declaration by United Nations*

JANUARY 1, 1942

*A Joint Declaration by the United States of America, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, China, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Costa Rica, Cuba, Czechoslovakia, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, India, Luxembourg, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Norway, Panama, Poland, South Africa, Yugoslavia.*

The Governments signatory hereto,

Having subscribed to a common program of purposes and principles embodied in the Joint Declaration of the President of the United States of America and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland dated August 14, 1941, known as the Atlantic Charter,

Being convinced that complete victory over their enemies is essential to defend life, liberty, independence and religious freedom, and to preserve human rights and justice in their own lands as well as in other lands, and that they are now engaged in a common struggle against savage and brutal forces seeking to subjugate the world,

DECLARE:

(1) Each Government pledges itself to employ its full resources, military or economic, against those members of the Tripartite Pact and its adherents with which such government is at war.

(2) Each Government pledges itself to cooperate with the Governments signatory hereto and not to make a separate armistice or peace with the enemies.

The foregoing declaration may be adhered to by other nations which are, or which may be, rendering material assistance and contributions in the struggle for victory over Hitlerism.

*Done at Washington, January First, 1942*

NOTES:

This Declaration was signed by representatives of the governments above listed on January 1, 1942.

Mexico adhered to the Declaration on June 5, 1942, the Philippines on June 10, 1942, Ethiopia's adherence was accepted on October 9, 1942, Iraq declared her adhesion on January 16, Brazil

signified hers on February 6, and Bolivia hers on May 5, 1943.

Earlier, on September 24, 1941, the governments of Belgium, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, Yugoslavia, and the representatives of General de Gaulle, leader of Free Frenchmen, had made known "their adherence to the common principles of policy set forth in that declaration." (See text of their Resolution, p. 137.)

By May 5, 1943, a total of 32 governments exclusive of the Fighting French had joined.



## *Treaty of Alliance*

BETWEEN THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AND THE  
UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN  
IRELAND, MAY 26, 1942<sup>1</sup>

### PART I

ARTICLE I. In virtue of the alliance established between the United Kingdom and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics the High Contracting Parties mutually undertake to afford one another military and other assistance and support of all kinds in the war against Germany and all those States which are associated with her in acts of aggression in Europe.

ARTICLE II. The High Contracting Parties undertake not to enter into any negotiations with the Hitlerite Government or any other Government in Germany that does not clearly renounce all aggressive intentions, and not to negotiate or conclude except by mutual consent any armistice or peace treaty with Germany or any other State associated with her in acts of aggression in Europe.

### PART II

ARTICLE III. (1) The High Contracting Parties declare their desire to unite with other like-minded States in adopting proposals for common action to preserve peace and resist aggression in the post-war period.

(2) Pending the adoption of such proposals they will after the termination of hostilities take all the measures in their power to render impossible a repetition of aggression and violation of the peace by Germany or any of the States associated with her in acts of aggression in Europe.

ARTICLE IV. Should one of the High Contracting Parties during the post-war period become involved in hostilities with Germany or any of the States mentioned in Article III (2) in consequence of an attack by that State against that Party, the other High Contracting Party will at once give to the Contracting Party so involved in hostilities all the military and other support and assistance in his power.

This article shall remain in force until the High Contracting

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<sup>1</sup>An "Agreement for Joint Action... in the War against Germany" was signed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on July 12, 1941. This agreement contained the substance of Articles I and II of Part I of the treaty which appears here.

Parties, by mutual agreement, shall recognize that it is superseded by the adoption of the proposals contemplated in Article III (1). In default of the adoption of such proposals, it shall remain in force for a period of 20 years, and thereafter until terminated by either High Contracting Party, as provided in Article VIII.

ARTICLE V. The High Contracting Parties, having regard to the interests of the security of each of them, agree to work together in close and friendly collaboration after the reestablishment of peace for the organization of security and economic prosperity in Europe. They will take into account the interests of the United Nations in these objects, and they will act in accordance with the two principles of not seeking territorial aggrandizement for themselves and of noninterference in the internal affairs of other States.

ARTICLE VI. The High Contracting Parties agree to render one another all possible economic assistance after the war.

ARTICLE VII. Each High Contracting Party undertakes not to conclude any alliance and not to take part in any coalition directed against the other High Contracting Party.

ARTICLE VIII. The present Treaty is subject to ratification in the shortest possible time and the instruments of ratification shall be exchanged in Moscow as soon as possible.

It comes into force immediately on the exchange of the instruments of ratification and shall thereupon replace the agreement between the Government of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics and His Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom, signed at Moscow on the 12th July, 1941.

Part I of the present Treaty shall remain in force until the reestablishment of peace between the High Contracting Parties and Germany and the Powers associated with her in acts of aggression in Europe.

Part II of the present Treaty shall remain in force for a period of 20 years. Thereafter, unless 12 months' notice has been given by either Party to terminate the Treaty at the end of the said period of 20 years, it shall continue in force until 12 months after either High Contracting Party shall have given notice to the other in writing of his intention to terminate it.

## *Three-Power Conference*

MOSCOW, NOVEMBER 2, 1943

### *Joint Communiqué of Tripartite Conference*

The conference of Foreign Secretaries of the United States of America, Mr. Cordell Hull; of the United Kingdom, Mr. Anthony Eden; and of the Soviet Union, Mr. V. M. Molotoff, took place at Moscow from the nineteenth to the thirtieth of October, 1943. There were twelve meetings. In addition to the Foreign Secretaries, the following took part in the conference:

For the United States of America: Mr. W. Averell Harriman, Ambassador of the United States; Maj. Gen. John R. Deane, United States Army; Mr. H. Hackworth, Mr. James C. Dunn and experts.

For the United Kingdom: Sir Archibald Clark Kerr, Ambassador; Mr. William Strang, Lieut. Gen. Sir Hastings Ismay and experts.

For the Soviet Union: Marshall K. E. Voroshiloff, Marshal of the Soviet Union; Mr. A. Y. Vyshinski and Mr. M. Litvinoff, deputy People's Commissars for Foreign Affairs; Mr. V. A. Sergeyeff, Deputy People's Commissar for Foreign Trade; Maj. Gen. A. A. Gryzloff of the General Staff, Mr. G. F. Saksin, senior official for People's Commissariat for Foreign Affairs, and experts.

The agenda included all questions submitted for discussion by the three Governments. Some of the questions called for final decisions, and these were taken. On other questions, after discussion, decisions of principle were taken. These questions were referred for detailed consideration to commissions specially set up for the purpose, or reserved for treatment through diplomatic channels. Other questions again were disposed of by an exchange of views. The Governments of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union have been in close cooperation in all matters concerning the common war effort, but this is the first time that the Foreign Secretaries of the three Governments have been able to meet together in conference.

In the first place there were frank and exhaustive discussions of the measures to be taken to shorten the war against Germany and her satellites in Europe. Advantage was taken of the presence of military advisers representing the respective Chiefs of Staff in



order to discuss definite military operations with regard to which decisions had been taken and which are already being prepared in order to create a basis for the closest military cooperation in the future between the three countries.

Second only to the importance of hastening the end of the war was the recognition by the three Governments that it was essential in their own national interests and in the interests of all peace-loving nations to continue the present close collaboration and cooperation in the conduct of the war into the period following the end of hostilities, and that only in this way could peace be maintained and the political, economic and social welfare of their peoples fully promoted.

This conviction is expressed in a declaration in which the Chinese Government joined during the conference and which was signed by the three Foreign Secretaries and the Chinese Ambassador at Moscow on behalf of their Governments. This declaration published today provides for even closer collaboration in the prosecution of the war and in all matters pertaining to the surrender and disarmament of the enemies with which the four countries are, respectively, at war. It set forth the principles upon which the four Governments agree that a broad system of international cooperation and security should be based. Provision is made for the inclusion of all other peace-loving nations, great and small, in this system.

The conference agreed to set up machinery for ensuring the closest cooperation between the three Governments in the examination of European questions arising as the war develops. For this purpose the conference decided to establish in London a European advisory commission to study these questions and to make joint recommendations to the three Governments.

Provision was made for continuing, when necessary, the tripartite consultations of representatives of the three Governments in the respective capitals through the existing diplomatic channels.

The conference also agreed to establish an advisory council for matters relating to Italy, to be composed in the first instance of representatives of their three Governments and of the French Committee of National Liberation. Provision is made for addition to this council of representatives of Greece and Yugoslavia in view of their special interests arising out of aggressions of Fascist

Italy upon their territory during the present war. This council will deal with day-to-day questions other than military preparations and will make recommendations designed to coordinate Allied policy with regard to Italy.

The Three Foreign Secretaries considered it appropriate to reaffirm, by a declaration published today, the attitude of the Allied Governments in favor of the restoration of democracy in Italy.

The three Foreign Secretaries declared it to be the purpose of their Governments to restore the independence of Austria. At the same time they reminded Austria that in the final settlement account will be taken of efforts that Austria may make toward its own liberation. The declaration on Austria is published today.

The Foreign Secretaries issued at the conference a declaration by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Stalin containing a solemn warning that at the time of granting any armistice to any German Government, those German officers and men and members of the Nazi party who have had any connection with atrocities and executions in countries overrun by German forces will be taken back to the countries in which their abominable crimes were committed to be charged and punished according to the laws of those countries.

In an atmosphere of mutual confidence and understanding which characterized all the work of the conference, consideration was also given to other important questions. These included not only questions of a current nature but also questions concerning treatment of Hitlerite Germany and its satellites, economic cooperation and assurance of general peace.

### *Joint Four-Nation Declaration*

The governments of the United States of America, the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union and China:

United in their determination, in accordance with the declaration by the United Nations of Jan. 1, 1942, and subsequent declarations, to continue hostilities against those Axis powers with which they respectively are at war until such powers have laid down their arms on the basis of unconditional surrender;

Conscious of their responsibility to secure the liberation of themselves and the peoples allied with them from the menace of aggression;

Recognizing the necessity of ensuring a rapid and orderly transition from war to peace and of establishing and maintaining international peace and security with the least diversion of the world's human and economic resources for armaments;

Jointly declare:

1—That their united action, pledged for the prosecution of the war against their respective enemies, will be continued for the organization and maintenance of peace and security.

2—That those of them at war with a common enemy will act together in all matters relating to the surrender and disarmament of that enemy.

3—That they will take all measures deemed by them to be necessary to provide against any violation of the terms imposed upon the enemy.

4—That they recognize the necessity of establishing at the earliest practicable date a general international organization, based on the principle of the sovereign equality of all peace-loving States, and open to membership by all such States, large and small, for the maintenance of international peace and security.

5—That for the purpose of maintaining international peace and security pending the re-establishment of law and order and the inauguration of a system of general security, they will consult with one another and as occasion requires with other members of the United Nations with a view to joint action on behalf of the community of nations.

6—That after the termination of hostilities they will not employ their military forces within the territories of other States except for the purposes envisaged in this declaration and after joint consultation.

7—That they will confer and coöperate with one another and with other members of the United Nations to bring about a practicable general agreement with respect to the regulation of armaments in the post-war period.

### *Declaration Regarding Italy*

The Foreign Secretaries of the United States, the United Kingdom and the Soviet Union have established that their three governments are in complete agreement that Allied policy toward Italy must be based upon the fundamental principle that fascism and all its evil influence and configuration shall be completely destroyed and that the Italian people shall be given every oppor-



tunity to establish governmental and other institutions based upon democratic principles.

The Foreign Secretaries of the United States and United Kingdom declare that the action of their governments from the inception of the invasion of Italian territory, in so far as paramount military requirements have permitted, has been based upon this policy.

In furtherance of this policy in the future the Foreign Secretaries of the three governments are agreed that the following measures are important and should be put into effect:

1—It is essential that the Italian Government should be made more democratic by inclusion of representatives of those sections of the Italian people who have always opposed fascism.

2—Freedom of speech, of religious worship, of political belief, of press and of public meeting shall be restored in full measure to the Italian people, who shall also be entitled to form anti-Fascist political groups.

3—All institutions and organizations created by the Fascist regime shall be suppressed.

4—All Fascist or pro-Fascist elements shall be removed from the administration and from institutions and organizations of a public character.

5—All political prisoners of the Fascist regime shall be released and accorded full amnesty.

6—Democratic organs of local government shall be created.

7—Fascist chiefs and army generals known or suspected to be war criminals shall be arrested and handed over to justice.

In making this declaration the three Foreign Secretaries recognize that so long as active military operations continue in Italy the time at which it is possible to give full effect to the principles stated above will be determined by the Commander-in-Chief on the basis of instructions received through the combined chiefs of staff.

The three governments, parties to this declaration, will, at the request of any one of them, consult on this matter. It is further understood that nothing in this resolution is to operate against the right of the Italian people ultimately to choose their own form of government.

#### *Declaration on Austria*

The governments of the United Kingdom, the Soviet Union

and the United States of America are agreed that Austria, the first free country to fall a victim to Hitlerite aggression, shall be liberated from German domination.

They regard the annexation imposed on Austria by Germany on March 15, 1938, as null and void. They consider themselves as in no way bound by any changes effected in Austria since that date. They declare that they wish to see re-established a free and independent Austria and thereby to open the way for the Austrian people themselves, as well as those neighboring States which will be faced with similar problems, to find that political and economic security which is the only basis for lasting peace.

Austria is reminded, however, that she has a responsibility, which she cannot evade, for participation in the war at the side of Hitlerite Germany, and that in the final settlement account will inevitably be taken of her own contribution to her liberation.

### *Statement on Atrocities*

Signed by President Roosevelt, Prime Minister Churchill  
and Premier Stalin

The United Kingdom, the United States and the Soviet Union have received from many quarters evidence of atrocities, massacres and cold-blooded mass executions which are being perpetrated by Hitlerite forces in many of the countries they have overrun and from which they are now being steadily expelled. The brutalities of Nazi domination are no new thing, and all peoples or territories in their grip have suffered from the worst form of government by terror. What is new is that many of these territories are now being redeemed by the advancing armies of the liberating powers and that in their desperation the recoiling Hitlerites and Huns are redoubling their ruthless cruelties. This is now evidenced with particular clearness by monstrous crimes on the territory of the Soviet Union which is being liberated from Hitlerites and on French and Italian territory.

Accordingly, the aforesaid three Allied powers, speaking in the interests of the thirty-two United Nations, hereby solemnly declare and give full warning of their declaration as follows:

At any time of granting of any armistice to any government which may be set up in Germany, those German officers and men and members of the Nazi party who have been responsible for or have taken a consenting part in the above atrocities, massacres and executions will be sent back to the countries in which their

abominable deeds were done in order that they may be judged and punished according to the laws of these liberated countries and of the free governments which will be erected therein. Lists will be compiled in all possible detail from all these countries, having regard especially to invaded parts of the Soviet Union, to Poland and Czechoslovakia, to Yugoslavia and Greece, including Crete and other islands; to Norway, Denmark, the Netherlands, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and Italy.

Thus, Germans who take part in wholesale shooting of Polish officers or in the execution of French, Dutch, Belgian or Norwegian hostages or of Cretan peasants, or who have shared in slaughters inflicted on the people of Poland or in territories of the Soviet Union which are now being swept clear of the enemy, will know they will be brought back to the scene of their crimes and judged on the spot by the peoples whom they have outraged. Let those who have hitherto not imbued their hands with innocent blood beware lest they join the ranks of the guilty, for most assuredly the three Allied powers will pursue them to the uttermost ends of the earth and will deliver them to their accusers in order that justice may be done.

The above declaration is without prejudice to the case of German criminals whose offenses have no particular geographical localization and who will be punished by joint decision of the governments of the Allies.

### *Three-Power Statement*

TEHERAN, IRAN, DECEMBER 1, 1943

#### *A Declaration of the Three Powers*

We, the President of the United States of America, the Prime Minister of Great Britain, and the Premier of the Soviet Union, have met in these four days past in this the capital of our ally, Teheran, and have shaped and confirmed our common policy.

We express our determination that our nations shall work together in the war and in the peace that will follow.

As to the war, our military staffs have joined in our round-table discussions and we have concerted our plans for destruction of the German forces. We have reached complete agreement as to the scope and timing of operations which will be undertaken from the east, west and south. The common understanding which



we have here reached guarantees that victory will be ours.

And as to the peace, we are sure that our concord will make it an enduring peace. We recognize fully the supreme responsibility resting upon us and all the nations to make a peace which will command good will from the overwhelming masses of the peoples of the world and banish the scourge and terror of war for many generations.

With our diplomatic advisers we have surveyed the problems of the future. We shall seek the cooperation and active participation of all nations, large and small, whose peoples in heart and in mind are dedicated, as are our own peoples, to the elimination of tyranny and slavery, oppression and intolerance. We will welcome them as they may choose to come into the world family of democratic nations.

No power on earth can prevent our destroying the German armies by land, their U-boats by sea, and their war plants from the air. Our attacks will be relentless and increasing.

Emerging from these friendly conferences we look with confidence to the day when all the peoples of the world may live free lives untouched by tyranny and according to their varying desires and their own consciences.

We came here with hope and determination. We leave here friends in fact, in spirit, and in purpose.

Signed at Teheran, Dec. 1, 1943.

ROOSEVELT, STALIN, CHURCHILL

### *Statement on Iran*

TEHERAN, IRAN, DECEMBER 1, 1943

The President of the United States of America, the Premier of the U. S. S. R., and the Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, having consulted with each other and with the Prime Minister of Iran, desire to declare the mutual agreement of their three Governments regarding relations with Iran.

The Governments of the United States of America, the U. S. S. R., and the United Kingdom recognize the assistance which Iran has given in the prosecution of the war against the common enemy, particularly by facilitating the transportation of supplies from overseas to the Soviet Union. The three Governments realize that the war has caused special economic difficulties

for Iran and they agreed that they will continue to make available to the Iran Government such economic assistance as may be possible, having regard to the heavy demands made upon them by their world-wide military operations and to the world-wide shortage of transport, raw materials and supplies for civilian consumption.

With respect to the post-war period, the Governments of the United States of America, the U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom are in accord with the Government of Iran that any economic problem confronting Iran at the close of hostilities should receive full consideration along with those of other members of the United Nations by conferences or international agencies, held or created, to deal with international economic matters.

The Governments of the United States of America, the U. S. S. R. and the United Kingdom are at one with the Government of Iran in their desire for the maintenance of the independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iran. They count upon the participation of Iran, together with all other peace-loving nations, in the establishment of international peace, security and prosperity after the war, in accordance with the principles of the Atlantic Charter, to which all four Governments have continued to subscribe.

## Section X

### *Anti-Comintern Pact*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE GERMAN AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS  
RESPECTING THE COMMUNIST INTERNATIONAL, BERLIN, NOVEMBER 25, 1936

The Government of the German Reich and the Imperial Japanese Government, recognizing that the aim of the Communist International, known as the Comintern, is to disintegrate and subdue existing States by all means at its command; convinced that the toleration of interference by the Communist International in the internal affairs of the nations not only endangers their internal peace and social well-being, but is also a menace to the peace of the world; desirous of cooperating in the defense against Communist subversive activities; have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE I. The High Contracting States agree to inform one another of the activities of the Communist International, to consult with one another on the necessary preventive measures, and to carry these through in close collaboration.

ARTICLE II. The High Contracting Parties will jointly invite third States whose internal peace is threatened by the subversive activities of the Communist International to adopt defensive measures in the spirit of this agreement or to take part in the present agreement.

ARTICLE III. The German as well as the Japanese text of the present agreement is to be deemed the original text. It comes into force on the day of signature and remains in force for a period of five years. Before the expiry of this period the High Contracting Parties will come to an understanding over the further method of their cooperation.

In witness whereof the undersigned, being duly and properly authorized by their respective Governments, have signed this agreement and affixed their seals.

Done in duplicate at Berlin on November 25, 1936—that is, November 25 of the 11th year of Showa Period.



# SUPPLEMENTARY PROTOCOL

On the occasion of the signing today of the agreement against the Communist International the undersigned Plenipotentiaries have agreed as follows:

- (a) The competent authorities of the two High Contracting States will work in close collaboration in matters concerning the exchange of information over the activity of the Communist International as well as investigatory and defensive measures against the Communist International.
- (b) The competent authorities of the two High Contracting States will within the framework of the existing laws take severe measures against those who at home or abroad are engaged directly or indirectly in the service of the Communist International or promote its subversive activities.
- (c) In order to facilitate the cooperation of the competent authorities of the two High Contracting Parties provided for in paragraph (a) a permanent committee will be set up. In this committee the further defensive measures necessary for the struggle against the subversive activities of the Communist International will be considered and discussed.

Berlin, November 25, 1936, that is, November 25 of the 11th year of the Showa Period.

## NOTES:

The following governments subsequently adhered to the Anti-Comintern Pact of November 26, 1936:

Italy	November 6, 1937
Hungary	February 24, 1939
Manchukuo	February 24, 1939
Spain	March 25, 1939

It was renewed for five years on November 25, 1941, when in addition to the above the following governments, dependent on the Axis, were reported to have signed.

Bulgaria	Rumania
"Croatia"	"Slovakia"
Denmark	The Wang Ching-wei
Finland	regime in China

(See also the Pact of Berlin of September 27, 1940 and its adherents, pp. 152-153.)

## *Pact of Berlin Between Germany, Italy, and Japan*

SIGNED AT BERLIN, SEPTEMBER 27, 1940

The Governments of Germany, Italy, and Japan consider it the prerequisite of a lasting peace that every nation in the world shall receive the space to which it is entitled. They have, therefore, decided to stand by and cooperate with one another in their efforts in Greater East Asia and the regions of Europe respectively. In doing this it is their prime purpose to establish and maintain a new order of things, calculated to promote the mutual prosperity and welfare of the peoples concerned.

It is, furthermore, the desire of the three Governments to extend cooperation to nations in other spheres of the world who are inclined to direct their efforts along lines similar to their own for the purpose of realizing their ultimate object, world peace.

Accordingly, the Governments of Germany, Italy, and Japan have agreed as follows:

ARTICLE 1. Japan recognizes and respects the leadership of Germany and Italy in the establishment of a new order in Europe.

ARTICLE 2. Germany and Italy recognize and respect the leadership of Japan in the establishment of a new order in Greater East Asia.

ARTICLE 3. Germany, Italy, and Japan agree to cooperate in their efforts on aforesaid lines. They further undertake to assist one another with all political, economic, and military means if one of the three Contracting Powers is attacked by a Power at present not involved in the European War or in the Chinese-Japanese conflict.

ARTICLE 4. With the view to implementing the present pact, joint technical commissions, to be appointed by the respective Governments of Germany, Italy, and Japan, will meet without delay.

ARTICLE 5. Germany, Italy, and Japan affirm that the above agreement affects in no way the political status existing at present between each of the three Contracting Parties and Soviet Russia.

ARTICLE 6. The present pact shall become valid immediately

upon signature and shall remain in force ten years from the date on which it becomes effective.

In due time, before the expiration of said term, the High Contracting Parties shall, at the request of any one of them, enter into negotiations for its renewal.

In recognition thereof, the undersigned, duly authorized by their respective governments, have signed this pact and have affixed their seals thereto.

Done in triplicate at Berlin, the 27th day of September, 1940, in the eighteenth year of the Fascist era corresponding to the 27th day of the ninth month of the fifteenth year of Showa.

NOTES:

The following governments subsequently adhered to the Pact of Berlin (Tripartite Pact) of September 27, 1940:

Hungary .....	November 20, 1940
Rumania .....	November 23, 1940
"Slovakia" .....	November 24, 1941
Bulgaria .....	March 1, 1941

(See also the Anti-Comintern Pact of November 25, 1939, and its adherents, pp. 150-151.)



## *Agreement*

BETWEEN THE GERMAN, ITALIAN, AND JAPANESE GOVERNMENTS,  
DECEMBER 11, 1941

(The Japanese attack on the United States and Great Britain on December 7, 1941, followed by the German and Italian declarations of war on the United States, naturally called for a reaffirmation of the principle of mutual support to which the three Axis partners had committed themselves by the Pact of Berlin of September 27, 1940. The fact that Japan was at peace with Soviet Russia required that that country be omitted from the list of countries against which this agreement was directed.)

In their unshakable determination not to lay down arms until the common war against the United States of America and Britain has been brought to a successful conclusion, the German Government, the Italian Government, and the Japanese Government have agreed upon the following provisions:

ARTICLE I. Germany, Italy, and Japan jointly and with every means at their disposal shall proceed with the war forced upon them by the United States of America and Britain until victory is achieved.

ARTICLE 2. Germany, Italy, and Japan undertake not to conclude an armistice or peace with the United States of America or Britain except in complete mutual agreement.

ARTICLE 3. After victory has been achieved Germany, Italy, and Japan will continue in closest cooperation with a view to establishing a new and just order along the lines of the Tripartite Agreement concluded by them on September 27, 1940.

ARTICLE 4. The present agreement will come into force with its signature and will remain valid as long as the Tripartite Pact of September 27, 1940. The High Contracting Parties will in good time before the expiry of this term of validity enter into consultation with each other as to the future development of their cooperation, as provided under Article 3 of the present agreement.



Map 1: Europe After the Treaty of Versailles





**Map 2: Hitler's Seizures in Europe**





Map 3: The Attack on Norway

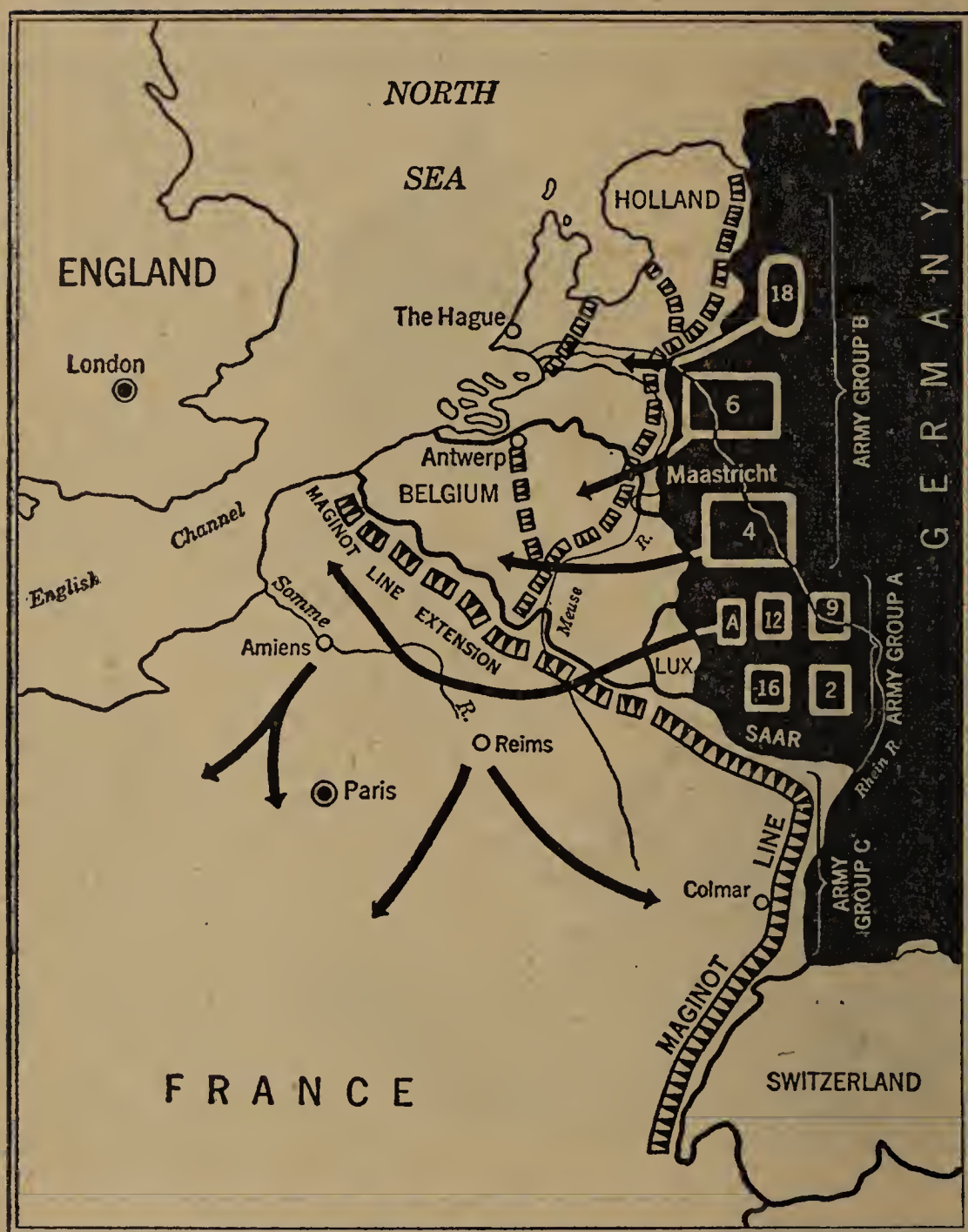


Map 4-A: The Start of the Polish Campaign



Map 4-B: The Blitzkrieg in Poland





Map 5: The Opening Attack on Holland, Belgium and France



Map 6: The Blitzkrieg in France







Map 7: The Mediterranean Area











**Map 8: The Scope of the Jap Attack that Began  
on December 1, 1941**







Map 8: The Scope of the Jap Attack that Began on December 1, 1941



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